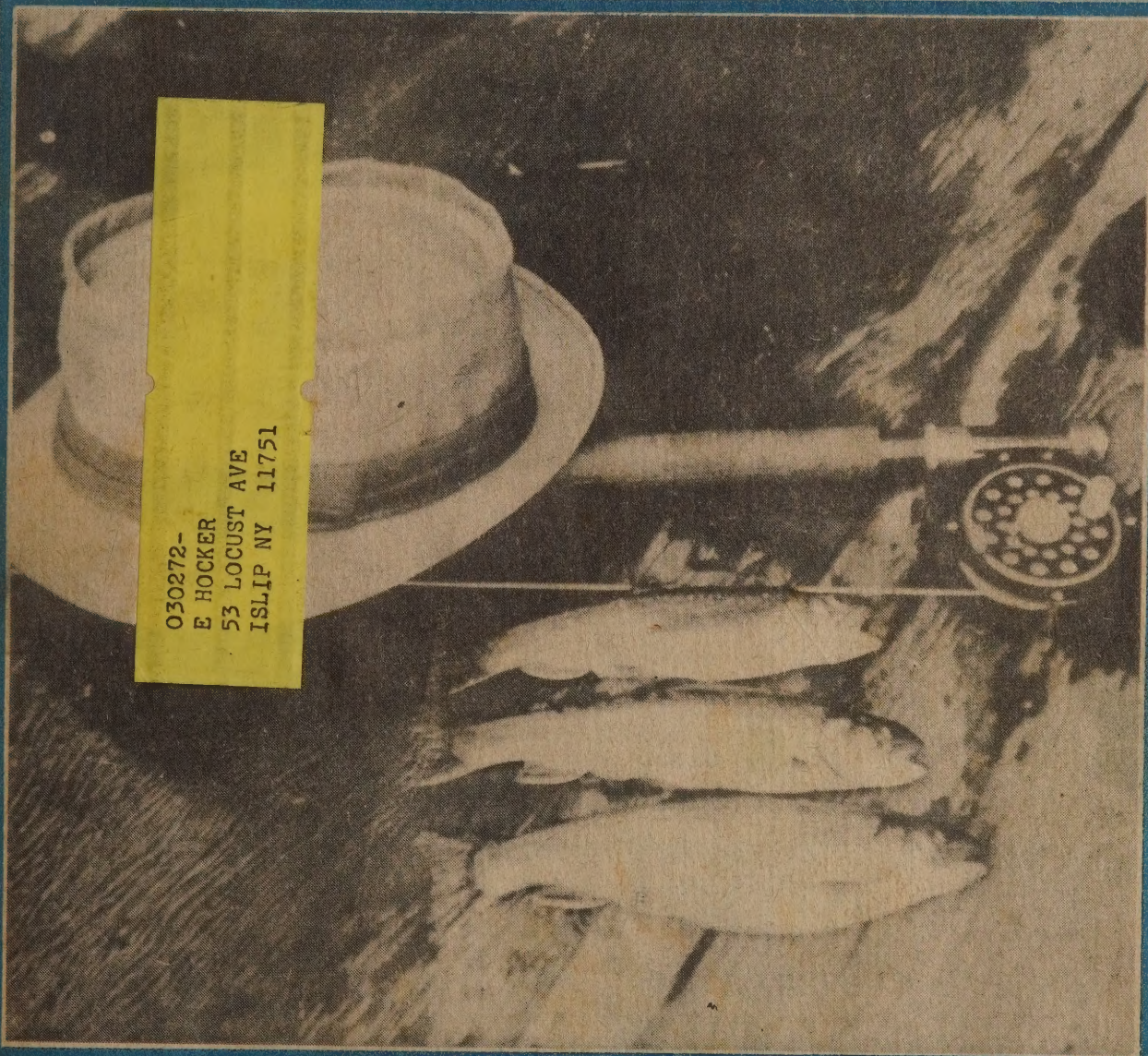




The Long Island ^{25°} FISHERMAN

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MARCH 25th, 1976, ISSUE No. 10



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VOLUME 11, No. 10

MARCH 25th, 1976

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ABOUT THE COVER: Trout season will open on April 1st. To get everyone in the mood, this issue was put together with the Freshwater Fishermen in mind. Hope you enjoy it.

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CLUB NEWS

WANTS TO JOIN CLUB

I am 14 years old and would like to know if there are any fishing clubs that I could join. I like all types of fishing but surf fishing in particular. **Joseph Nugent** 45-26 163rd St., Flushing, NY 11358.

OUTBOARD SKIPPERS' CLUB MEETING

"The Outboard Skippers' Club of the South Shore Power Squadron will hold its monthly meeting at the American Savings Bank, Modell's Shopping Center, Hempstead Turnpike and Newbridge Avenue in East Meadow on Monday, April 12th at 8 P.M. A movie about CHARTER SAILING in the Virgin Islands will be shown. All outboarders and outboard-inboarders are invited to attend."

GOOD GROUND ROD & GUN ANNUAL AWARDS AND DANCE

"The Annual Awards Dinner-Dance of the Good Ground Rod and Gun Club of East Quogue will be held on March 27th, 1976 at 8:00 P.M. at the Flanders Mens Club in Flanders. Awards will be presented to our 1975 trophy winners."

LIBBA ANNUAL FISHING AWARDS

The Long Island Beach Buggy Association held it's Annual dinner dance at the K of C hall in Patchogue on Saturday March 6th, 1976. The associations annual fishing contest awards were given as follows:

Senior Division: Bass (surf) to William Gordon for 53 pounds 8 ounces. Bass (boat) to Frederick Reese for 43 pounds 8 ounces. Blue (surf) to Thomas Kehlenbeck for 18 pounds 4 ounces. Blue (boat) to Charles Veith for 14 pounds 8 ounces. WEakfish (boat and surf) to Charles Peppard for 13 pounds 7 ounces and the Hidden weight went to Charlie Metzger for a 31 pound 14 ounce bass caught in the surf.

Junior Division: Bass (surf) to Craig De Piazzy for 30 pounds 8 ounces. Bass (boat) to Mike Marchand for 18 pounds 2 ounces. Blue (surf) to Lee Wolfson for 11 pounds 1 ounce and weakfish (boat and surf) to Michael Tagliavia for 7 pounds 1 ounce.

In addition to these awards outgoing President John Burns presented the Presidents Award for Outstanding Performance to Jimmy Watson, Caroline Wolfson and Ellie Spigelmire.

News Releases

NORMAN LENT TO SPEAK AT BALDWIN ROD & GUN ON 200-MILE LIMIT

On April 20th, Congressman Norman Lent will talk on the 200-Mile Limit at the Freeport Elk's Club on Merrick Road in Freeport at 8 P.M. after the regular meeting of the Baldwin Rod & Gun Club. Interested anglers are invited to attend.

"YOUR FUTURE IN THE SEA" SYMPOSIUM

Authorities on aquaculture, fish diseases, coral reef succession, gamefish migrations, whale populations, and salt marsh productivity will present papers and informal talks at the Littoral Society's seventh annual symposium on "Your Future in the Sea" at Hunter College, Saturday, April 3, from 1-5 P.M. and from 8-11 P.M.

In addition, there will be underwater films on porpoises, tropical reef fishes, venomous marine animals, and undersea volcanoes.

The Society's James Dugan Memorial Award for service in the marine sciences will be presented. Previous recipients include Dr. Wheeler J. North, who pioneered studies of kelp culture on the West Coast, John T. Hughes, whose work on lobster propagation has led to increased lobster stocks in New England and Dr. Eugenie Clark for her work on sharks and on the marine biology of the Red Sea.

The meeting is open to the public. For information write: American Littoral Society, Highlands, New Jersey.

ARTIFICIAL REEF FOR NORTH SHORE

Volunteer fishermen, divers, and anyone with a boat, are needed to construct an artificial fishing reef in Long Island Sound, offshore Long Beach, Town of Smithtown, New York.

The Smithtown Conservation Advisory Council proposes to develop the reef over the next three (3) years by placing concrete ballasted auto tire structures, in an area approximately 150 yards by 100 yards. The center of the area is located approximately 4,051 yards offshore and 284 degrees 30' true from the Stony Brook church spire, as indicated on the attached plan. In addition, a steel underwater habitat will be installed to this site to study the marine organisms attracted to the reef.

The top of the proposed reef will be more than 23' below the plane of mean low water, so there wouldn't be any interference with navigation.

The purpose of the reef is to create a

simulated uneven bottom conducive to the growth of marine organisms, in order to attract bottom feeding fish.

In time of budgets everywhere, the Smithtown proposal has an added advantage—it will cost nothing.

Any person or clubs that may be interested may contact Steve Resler, 265-2900, Ext. 211 for more information.



BOATING SAFETY COURSE AT FLOYD BENNETT FIELD

F.S.O. Anthony Naglieri, Public Relations Officer of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 11-7, wishes to announce that a course in Boating Safety is to be held at Floyd Bennett Field.

The course will include Seamanship Boat Handling, Safety, Rules of the Road, Piloting, etc.

Registration for classes will be on Thursday evening April 1st at 8 P.M. and April 8th at 8 P.M. at Floyd Bennett Field. All are welcome, the course is free.

For pre-registration and additional information, call Anthony Naglieri, FSO/PR 11-7 (212) 847-7815.

BOATING COURSES IN ISLAND PARK

12 Lesson courses in Boating Safety and Seamanship will be conducted by Long Beach Flotilla 13-3, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, at the Lincoln-Orens School, Island Park and at the Lindell School, Long Beach this spring.

Island Park registration will be held at the school on March 23-24-25 from 7-9 P.M. Classes will start Monday, March 29th and on successive Mondays thereafter from 8 to 10 P.M.

New York State Conservation courses for children 10 to 16 years will also be conducted at Lincoln-Orens starting March 29th, from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. Registration dates and times are the same as for the adults. Children are reminded that they must take and pass the New York State course in order to operate a power boat without an adult aboard.

Long Beach registration will be held at the Lindell School on March 29-30-31 from 8 to 10 P.M.. Classes will be held every Tuesday evening from 8 to 10 P.M. beginning April 6th.

The adult course will include Basics of Boat Handling, Rules of the Road, Aids to Navigation, Charts and Compasses, Weather, etc. For further information contact Ed Carciola, Flotilla Public Education Officer at (516) 432-4731.

EDITORIAL

K & K OUTBOARD

THE ODDS AND ENDS OF SPRINGTIME

Although the spring is a time of great anticipation and the first fat flounder fillets may make us content and at peace, the seige on Long Island's marine ecology continues. A few weeks ago we discussed cutbacks in the D.E.C. Division of Marine and Coastal Resources. We have just discovered that still another dedicated person has been released. Mr. Lawrence Kelly who was Director of Community Relations will no longer serve in that capacity after March. This is a misfortune for the people of Long Island because in addition to Mr. Kelly's familiarity with Long Island and its unique problems, he has diligently been trying to develop education programs in the hope that a more informed population will facilitate the understanding of our special ecology and its problems. He will be sorely missed. Furthermore, the position will not be filled and this means that the State Office in Albany believes that education of the people is a waste of time.

It was Mr. Kelly who, several years ago, helped us at The Fisherman to gather information, mobilize official interest, and establish liason with east-end conservation officers when mussel gatherers began wholesale destruction of salt marsh bog in east-end creeks. Progress was made and damage was kept to an absolute minimum.

However, it is again that time of year when the mussel gatherers have come out in force and the potential for marsh destruction again exists and in some cases it has already begun. Flounder fishermen demand mussels and those that can and wish to make a buck by selling the mussels to boat liveries and bait stores must be careful not to damage our precious and incredibly productive salt marshes in their zeal to gather bait.

Last year we suggested to fishermen, residents, and baymen alike that all abuses be reported to local conservation officers. Concerned individuals did respond by exercising their responsibility and reported offenders. In some cases summonses were issued. We would like to make the same appeal this year. Remember flounder fans—without the productivity of the marsh there will be no flounders. Remember baymen—without the productivity of viable wetlands there will be no baymen. Remember east-end citizens—without the creeks and marshes of Peconic Bay much of the character of the area that has drawn you to it as a home and recreational area will be lost.

Democracy presumes that we all do not need to be coerced into behavior that is best for all. It is a cooperative venture. We either sink or swim together. Democracy also presumes that we will report and punish those whose behavior is not in the common interest. Let's not talk Democracy, let's live it in order to leave to our descendants the kind of beautiful and fruitful world that we have had the privilege of enjoying.

Last but not least, remember to release those small flounders. A fish that is under 10 inches is not really worth keeping. If the flatfish in your backyard do not measure up, make a resolve to explore other areas such as Moriches Bay, Eastern Great South Bay, and Peconic Bay for larger sea-run fish.

If you haven't made your first trip of the season yet go soon. It will be a great season...right?

William A. Miller

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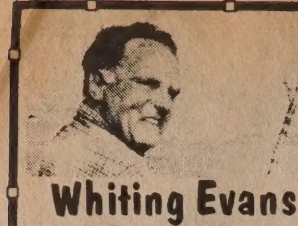
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Fluffy Cod Fish Balls Fillets Cantonese Baked Stuffed Fish

During this winter I've managed to get myself out of bed in the early weesma' hours at least once every two weeks to get myself aboard either the Captain Joseph IV out of Captree, the new Starstream out of Freeport or the Peconic Queen II out of Montauk. My goal? To win the pool for the heaviest codfish and of course, to bring one or more back home to enjoy the various dishes to which its flesh is so adaptable. Results? Only once did I come within a couple of ounces of the winning fish—and that wasn't a behemoth! But I wasn't skunked once. Standing at that rail—heated or cold—all day long, constantly expecting that tell-tale tug-tug-tug to evidence itself and experiencing it but seldom, sounds awfully boring but it truly isn't. To be out on that changeable ocean with no other vessel in sight on any horizon is a great pleasure all in itself. And then there's the companionship of your fellow anglers—all with similar goals in mind.

I think it was on the Starstream about a month or six weeks ago that I met one fellow who asked me to once again write my recipe for fluffy codfish balls. They positively melt in your mouth; be careful not to eat too many!

But first, you should know that I like to make them with salted codfish. My method of salting cod is to first fillet the cod trying hard not to include any bones in the flesh. Then, I use a 5 gallon stone crock into which I first place some Kosher salt in the bottom; then a layer of fillets; then, more salt. I then add water so that the fillets are covered with brine. I keep the crock in my garage and I find that the fillets are good to eat and don't spoil right up until the hot weather begins. I haven't tried drying the salted fillets but I think that by doing so the bacala would last longer if kept refrigerated. Another important thing to do before using the salted fillets! First, cut the flesh into thin slices and place them in a pot. Add hot water and pour it out. Then you are ready to make the cod fish balls.

Fluffy Codfish Balls

1 cup salt codfish
2½ cups potatoes
1/8 teaspoon pepper
½ teaspoon butter
1 egg, well beaten

Using the washed thin slices of fish in a pot, add the washed, cubed potatoes and water to cover. Cook until the potatoes are nearly soft. Drain the water from the pot and then shake the pot over heat until the cod and the potatoes are as dry as possible. Mash well and then add the butter, egg and pepper. Beat with a fork for a couple of minutes. Now, with a tablespoon, either saute in butter or fry in deep fat heated to 385 degrees. Use no more than 6 spoonfuls for each frying. Drain the fat from the browned balls on paper towels. This recipe will serve about 6 normal appetites—less if I'm around!

Fish Fillets Cantonese

3 cups water
1 pound fish fillets (flounder or fluke) cut into serving pieces
3 tablespoons chopped green onion
½ teaspoon pepper
¼ teaspoon ground ginger
¼ cup corn oil
¼ cup soy sauce
¼ cup chicken broth
1 tablespoon corn starch
¼ cup water
1 tablespoon sugar
½ teaspoon ground ginger

In a large skillet heat water to boiling. Add fish, 1 tablespoon of the green onion, pepper and ¼ teaspoon ginger. Simmer about 5 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, stir together the corn oil, soy sauce, and chicken broth. Bring to a boil over medium heat.

Stir together the corn starch and water until smooth; stir into soy sauce mixture; add the sugar and ½ teaspoon ginger. Boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Keep warm over low heat.

Place cooked fish on serving platter. Pour sauce over fish and garnish with remaining green onion. Makes 4 servings.

Baked Stuffed Fish

2 whole striped bass, cod or blue (3½ to 4 pounds each)
1 8 ounce can flavored breadcrumbs
1 6½ ounce can crab meat
1 4½ ounce can of shrimp
1½ sticks of butter or oleo melted
1 carrot sliced
leaves from 1 stalk celery
onion salt and pepper to taste

Stuffing: Mix crabmeat, shrimp and breadcrumbs with butter. Moisten with fish stock.

Fish Stock: Cover fish heads and bones with water, add celery leaves, carrot, onion salt and pepper. Bring to a boil and simmer until fish flakes from bone.

Remove head, bone fish, stuff and place in a well oiled pan reserving one cup stuffing to form head. Moisten top with a little stock sprinkled generously with paprika. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30 minutes. Remove, form head with remaining stuffing using once slice stuffed olive for eye. Return to oven for 10 more minutes. Serve on bed of green noodles (to depict sea weed). Dribble white sauce over top of noodles and fish. Serve remaining sauce in gravy boat.

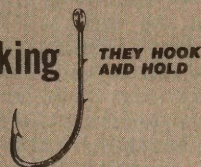
Sauce for fish: Make your favorite white sauce thick using fish stock and two tablespoons of wine (sherry or sauterne or chablis) in place of milk.

The recipe above was culled from a delightful book, "Put In A Pinch of British Soldiers" which consists of recipes, rarities and reminiscences from the kitchens of Sag Harbor. It was written by Arlene and Bill Ball; illustrated by Joan Baren and published by the North Haven—Sag Harbor unit of the Southampton Hospital Auxiliary. If you would like a copy send \$4 to the Southampton Hospital, Public Relations Dept., Southampton, New York 11968. I can't recommend this book highly enough and the charge benefits the Hospital. As a matter of fact, some very thoughtful friends of mine made me a present of this book. Why not do the same for a friend of yours?



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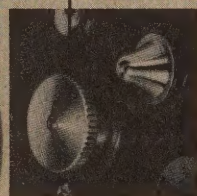
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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

SPRING FLOUNDER FISHING

I don't know of a single Long Island bouncer who doesn't enjoy flounder fishing. Let the first balmy days of early spring arrive and hundreds of these anglers can be seen skiff-fishing on placid bay waters; clustered at the rails of party and charter boats anchored over flounder hot-spots; lined up on creek banks, canals, jettys and piers; all doing what they like best: enticing scrappy flounders to the baited hook.

Of course there is good reason for all this: Flounders are easy to catch. A few basic requirements are all that's needed to become a successful flounder fisherman.

Most experienced fishermen look for spring flounders to begin biting well by St. Patrick's Day. From then on, fishing remains good in most places until mid-May, or until the advancing summer's warmer waters sends the flatties to cooler, deeper areas, seeking water temperatures to their liking.

As most spring flounders are caught in sheltered areas, tackle required is light, simple and inexpensive.

There are two rod choices available: a light boat rod, equipped with a revolving spool reel filled with eight to ten pound test monofilament line; or a light to medium-weight spinning rod with matching open-faced reel filled with six-pound test mono.

My favorite outfit is a light, six-foot spinning rod and open-faced reel filled with the recommended six-pound test mono. With it I can cast light sinkers and still hold bottom in a normal tidal current. Not only that, but with light line and sinker, the flounder can pour on the steam and give a good account of itself.

As with all bottom fishing, rigging is no problem. But because this is so, many fishermen don't place enough importance to it and they often err in this department. Knowledge of the proper terminal tackle and its correct use makes the difference between fish and no fish. It's as simple as that.

When flounder fishing, the cardinal rule is: the less hardware, the better. The smart fisherman will give more than passing interest as to how he rigs.

Hooks are no problem. The standard flounder hook has long been the long-shanked Chestertown in size nine or ten, with nine preferred. As flounders are strictly bottom feeders, your hooks must be there to do any good. Experienced flounder fishermen tandem

tie their hooks to achieve this end.

Here's how to do it: Use two hooks and fold the snell of one at its middle. Take this fold and place it through the knotted loop of the second hook. This second hook is then put through the first fold, drawn up tightly and secured with an overhand knot. This is placed on the line by making a two-inch dropper loop two inches above the sinker. Takes but seconds and will guarantee your hooks to be on bottom.

If you wish you can employ a 2/0 to 4/0 sinker-snap and place the tandem tied rig and sinker together. Either method works well when rigged this way and you will have no difficulty feeling the bite of the most cautious flounder.

As flounder fishing is best where currents are slow-moving, heavy sinkers are unnecessary. Especially is this so when using the light mono line recommended before. Seldom does the fisherman find he must use sinkers heavier than two ounces.

The bank-style sinker is the kind most often used for bottom fishing as its tear-drop shape enables it to slide past minor bottom obstructions. Actually, any sinker but the surf caster's pyramid will do the job when flounder fishing.

Fortunately for the fisherman, flounders take a wide selection of bait.

Most anglers use blood and sandworms exclusively, but this doesn't necessarily mean this bait is best. It just means this bait is in more demand. To be truthful, I can't remember when I last used either of these marine worms. I use nothing but clam or mussel, which are readily available at most rowboat stations and bait stands.

Because flounders have small mouths, many fishermen make the understandable mistake of using small baits. This error often makes the difference between catching small fish and those of bragging size. Any decently-sized flounder can inhale a bait one and a half inches in length. In fact, these larger baits are more appealing to flounders. It is urged that you use that size with any of the recommended baits.

Not only is proper bait size important, it is also necessary that it be properly placed on the hook. When using worm, never pass the hook completely through to the end. Doing so, gives it a curved, bunched appearance. Not only will this look unnatural, but due to muscular

contraction the worm has a tendency to toughen as it follows the contour of the hook. Needless to say, because of the flounder's toothless mouth, tough, hard baits will be ignored.

baits will be ignored. Should you catch any on this bait, they are sure to be small.

The best way to make a piece of worm appealing is to run the hook through and bring the point out about a third of an inch from the end. Leave the hook's point and bend exposed. Flounders seem never to notice. The bait will now lie on bottom with the end wriggling enticingly in the current. Flounders can't resist it.

Another excellent bait is a choice slice of succulent clam. There are three kinds fishermen use with good results: the large ocean skimmer and the soft and hard clam found in local bays.

Fresh skimmer is often hard to come by in most bait shops, therefore these are usually purchased frozen. If you are certain this choice bait contains no salt, use it; otherwise be advised to hie yourself to the nearest fish market and get a dozen hard clams or a pound or two of soft clams.

Clam should be cut into the same size pieces as worm bait. Make sure they are sliced into thin strips and that some of the soft belly remains. This is what flounders relish. Using thick slices will only make it easy for the flounder to nibble away without getting hooked. Also be sure to place these slices on the hook in the same manner as worm bait. It is most important that this bait trail in the current.

When using soft clam, trim the black skin from the "neck" and cut into two or more slices, depending on size. Save the string-like "lips" and use first. They often produce better than the neck.

Like humans, fish also have their food preferences. Fresh bank mussels are the T-bone steak on a flounder's menu. The fisherman can hardly go wrong when using this bait.

The mussel's one drawback is that it's often difficult to keep on the hook when cast. If fishing from a boat, this is no great problem because it isn't necessary to cast. When shore fishing, if the hook is run through the meat several times and then wrapped about the hook shank, it will stay on long enough to entice a flounder.

If fishing other than on a charter or

party boat, you will have to find your own fish. This isn't difficult. Look for water at least fifteen feet deep and anchor. You can also drift if the weather permits and put over the anchor when the first fish is caught. Or you can look for other boats in the general area and fish near them, not too close, of course.

When a flounder bite is felt, don't haul back with a savage yank. You're more than likely to pull the hook away; at best you'll have a lightly-hooked fish. All that is needed is a quick snap of the wrist to twist and sink the hook.

If no action is forthcoming, this doesn't mean there are no fish around. Flounders often snuggle close to the bait and inhale it quickly, giving no notice of their presence. Cautiously raise the rod from time to time and if weight is felt, hook the fish with a quick follow-through of the rod tip. These fish are usually hooked deeply and seldom lost.

Chumming with cracked mussels and/or soft clam is guaranteed to draw fish to your boat. Just toss a few at a time in the general direction of the anchor until the fish respond. Don't become too engrossed in your fishing, however, that you forget to sweeten the chum line occasionally. So long as you keep the fish on the prowl for your chum, they'll continue biting.

You can also invest in a chum pot. Pack it with crushed mussel or clam and bounce it on bottom occasionally to disperse the contents in the current.

Shore fishing for flounders produces well—sometimes better than from a boat, particularly at the beginning of the season. Fish the banks of any deep water creek, the bulkheading of any canal, or from a jetty or pier and you will catch flounders in springtime. Use the methods mentioned, with slight modifications to suit your fishing area.

No article on Long Island's spring flounder fishing would be complete without mentioning snowshoe flounders. The name "snowshoe" is no misnomer. Most average about three to four pounds, with an occasional five or six pounder always a possibility, plus being a great incentive to keep the fisherman on his toes.

Late April through the month of May is snowshoe time at Montauk. As this is more or less specialized fishing, the novice fisherman is advised to sail aboard one of Montauk's famous party boats for best results.

Fresh skimmer is usually provided with the fare and as there are often good sized cod about, it behooves the fisherman to use sturdy tackle. A regular snelled 5/0 Sproat placed three feet above an eight ounce sinker and baited with a slice of skimmer will take cod as you flounder fish.

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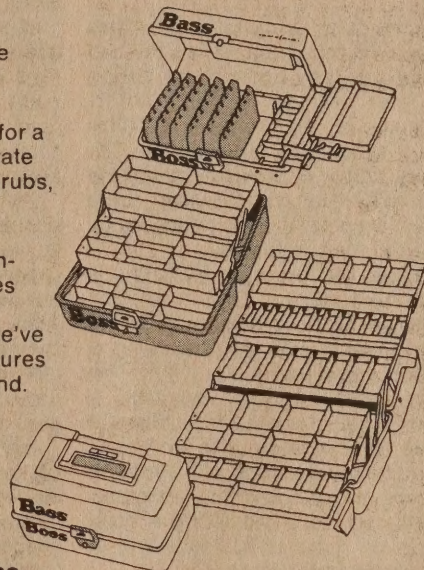
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Surf Side

with John Fritz

Opening The Season At Little Neck Bay

Little Neck Bay does not have the picturesque scenery of crashing surf against clean white sand. It does have the first run of striped bass in the spring on Long Island. A trip to Little Neck Bay at low tide would reveal not much more than mud flats. Then again low tide is not the time anyone would want to fish here. The best time to fish there is during the two hour period before high tide and during the first two hours of the ebb tide.

Under the cover of darkness the bass cruise the flats searching for worms and other tidbits as they begin heavy spring feeding after dormant winter months. There are no bone-jarring strikes because the fish are generally on the small side and still lethargic from the chill still-cold water. On occasion, some decent size bass have been taken, so be prepared for the unexpected.

The fastest route to Little Neck Bay is Northern Blvd. (25A). Take it to Bell Boulevard in Bayside and turn North. When you reach 35th Avenue hang a right. After going east a few blocks you will pass a school on your left side. A short way further there is a fork, take the left road which goes downhill into Crocheron Park. The road dead-ends at the parkway, so park your car, pack your things and lock it. It would be a good idea not to leave any visible valuables in the car, for obvious reasons.

On the side opposite the pond is a path that leads to a walk-bridge over the parkway. Upon reaching the other side you will have to make a choice of where you will fish. To the left (north) is Fort Totten. To the right (south) is the shore which leads to the head of the bay. Then again, if you don't like to walk you can fish right here. Although the more popular spots are to the right, stripers can be caught anywhere along this shore.

To begin with there is a cove to the north where Fort Totten bulges out into

the mouth of the bay. I have not fished this particular place but it looks good and I know fish are taken here. This cove has more vegetation than the rest of the shoreline. Black ducks are frequently seen grubbing for food along the waterline here which indicates the presence of marine life.

As I've stated before, the more popular spot is towards the south where the shore curves to the east. If you walk along here you will eventually have to make another turn south because the head of the bay is cut by a creek which runs all the way to the Expressway. This point near the convergence of bay and creek is a prime spot. A good second choice is from here back to the shore along the parkway.

Fishing usually begins here at the beginning of April. I have had bass here as early as the end of March. Since this is early in the season, dress warm. The temperature back at the house might seem mild but it is always colder near the water at this time of year. Remember also that this is night-time bottom fishing. There will be a lot of standing around without the sun to warm you.

Fishing during the daylight hours is not productive here. Your bait will be bothered by small flounders. At the price of worms now-a-days the whole worm needed for bass are all too soon consumed by the flaties.

The usual terminal gear consists of the standard fish-finder rig, with the hooks in the neighborhood of the I/o Eagle Claw. No cork is required because the fish are searching the bottom for their food. There is no current so the only lead needed is what you need to cast. One to three ounces is plenty.

Bloodworm is the bait and since they are usually small you will have to use at least a whole worm.

You can use your lighter sticks in Little Neck Bay and enjoy more sport. When the tide coincides with dawn or dusk

those of you who commute to the city can stop off either before or after work. The smaller rods can be safely stored inside your car while you're earning the family bread.

The girls in the office might not take to the worms cooling in the refrigerator but necessity is the mother of invention. Depending on each situation something can be done to keep the bait alive. The weather is usually cool at this time of the year. On sunny days though, the car if parked in the sun, can have a greenhouse effect and you will find cooked "bloods" at 5 P.M.

As previously stated this is night fishing, so a light is beneficial but not an absolute necessity. If you fish near the parkway shore the street lights will enable you to see what is going on. Otherwise either a necklight or lantern is needed. Sand spikes and whatever else you prefer for bottom fishing completes your gear.

I have found that more fish are caught when the water is fairly clean. Strong winds out of the north blow down the length of the bay and stir up the bottom. Winds from the south do not have the long sweep of open bay to build up any waves. The bay is also protected by land from southerly winds.

Be quiet because you're fishing on the flats in fairly shallow water. Loud noises or splashing in the wash will spook the fish. Be careful with your lights. Do not shine them into the water unnecessarily. If you are using a lantern try to shield the light so it doesn't shine directly into the water. You can block the light with a rock or piece of driftwood so it will shine only on the rod tip held in the sand spike.

Waders are not a must. If you have hip boots they will do, but waders will keep you warmer.

Those of you who like to back up on your fish will have a problem. Back up too far and you'll be in the middle of the Cross Island Parkway.

So until Ol' Roccus invades his normal haunts on the rest of the Island, you can shake out the cobwebs and give your wife a break by getting out of the house for awhile.

Have a happy season!



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CROSSING THE BAR *with Don Vetter*

SPRING FEVER *Part I*



There are few sights as evocative of sheer desolation as a boatyard in the dead of winter. The winter-covered hulls stand in serried ranks with the doleful aspect of shrouded corpses; unmelted snow is about in profusion, and a bitter, searching wind bespeaks more chill weather to come, with but little hint of impending spring. Wait a minute, isn't that the whine of a power sander I hear? At least one early-bird boatman has gotten the jump on his neighbors, and is setting about the task of spring fitting-out. For those who fish for an early launching, the calendar and the unmelted snow are of little deterrent.

Before pulling the winter-cover off your pride and joy, it makes sense to do a bit of advance planning as to what work will be required and how you are going to go about it. Spring fitting-out really begins at the end of the previous season, for you should clean the bottom thoroughly within two hours after hauling out while the marine growth thereon is still soft and mushy. If you allow it to dry, you may find it has taken on the characteristics of cement. Use a good detergent, a stiff long-handled brush and a hose.

Cleaning is in fact the heart of the problem with fiberglass hulls which are not subject to rot or peeling paint. Fresh water and detergent may be all you'll need, though stubborn stains are best removed with a commercial fiberglass cleaner such as Scotch-Brite. Avoid abrasives, as they tend to wear away the outer layer of the glass, known as gel-coat. Small chips and cracks should be patched with a gel-coat repair kit; larger damaged areas require the use of an epoxy repair kit which includes mat, resin and catalyst. Finish the repair with fine wet sanding to assure a smooth finish, and waxing. Anti-fouling paint on the bottom is about the only paint work you will have to worry about on a fiberglass hull. If the bottom has never been painted before and the boat is relatively new, be sure to clean the bottom thoroughly to remove any mold release agent or wax which may be found there. If there is an old layer of anti-fouling paint present, wear a respirator and safety goggles when you sand it off, due to the toxic qualities of these paints.

If you own a wooden hulled craft, clean the topsides with a soft brush and hose, after removing bottom growth. If

the paint appears in relatively good condition, only a light sanding may be required prior to putting on a fresh coat. Check out the hull for gouges, cracks, splits, sprung planks and loose fastenings. A good troweling compound (non-elastic) will take care of most minor surface damage, though major repairs such as replacing a strake or frame are best left in the hands of the professionals. When the hull requires complete re-caulking, remove the old material completely. An ordinary screwdriver, heated cherry-red and bent at a 90 degree angle before retempering, makes a good reaming tool. Use caution when employing one of the commercial triangular reaming tools, as excessive pressure can result in gouging the wood at the seam edge. Replace old caulking with one of the new synthetic rubber (elastomeric) sealants. They are expensive, but far superior to the older conventional compounds. Use clean cotton at the bottom of the seam and apply sealant with a putty knife. Finish off with the sealant a bit below the surface of the planking, rather than flush, to allow for swelling of the wood in the water. Masking tape placed on either side of the seam allows for speedy clean-up of excess.

Painting the topsides is relatively simple once the surface of old paint is clean, dry and smooth. If extensive sanding of the old paint is required, use a belt or vibrator sander; disc sanders tend to gouge the wood. Fill any chips or gouges with troweling compound and cabin or deck seams with elastic sealant. Try to stick to the same paint as used in previous coats; oil, epoxy, urethane base or whatever. The new coat should be the same as the old. After sanding the bottom and recaulking the seams as needed, apply fresh anti-fouling paint. There are many types on the market, but the "hard" or copper-based paint is generally the best. Be sure the paint contains at least 50 percent cuprous oxide, and for boats left in the water throughout the season in this area, two coats is the best against marine growth. Be careful not to paint over such bottom appurtenances as ground plates and depth-sounder transducers.

If you have an aluminum hull craft of modern manufacture, the alloy is likely to be pretty corrosion-resistant, though all aluminum hulled boats are subject to a certain amount of galvanic corrosion,

due to the action of sea-water in contact with the metal. The condition of the metal determines the best cleaning method: if the hull is in fairly good shape, use a non-etch alkaline cleaner designed for use on aluminum, applied with a brush and followed by a clear rinse. Rough surfaces resulting from old paint, corrosion or wear from abrasion of some sort, require the use of mechanical cleaning with bronze or stainless steel wool or a wire brush. Chemical etching is another method of cleaning aluminum. It consists of applying chromic or phosphoric acid or zinc chromate. This removes the oil and mill-scale from new aluminum; particularly important if you wish to paint the metal, for besides thoroughly cleaning the surface, it etches the metal to provide "tooth" for the paint to cling to.

Corrosion on aluminum surfaces shows up in the form of a white powder, and should be cleaned down to the bare metal. It may be then primed and painted to resist further corrosion. Small holes and dents can be taken care of with an aluminum-base epoxy filler, while larger dents may be removed by the judicious application of a rubber hammer from the inside. If any old paint present is clean and smooth, you may paint right over it, using a paint of the same base as the old coat. If the finish is pretty well shot, don't bother to sand it, just use a fast-acting paint remover and follow up with a wire brushing. This method also applies to removing the anti-fouling paint from the bottom, though the wire brushing should be deleted, as it may tend to drive copper particles into the aluminum. Copper bottom paints react poorly on aluminum (action of dissimilar metals in salt water) and you will run into considerable galvanic corrosion on the bottom if you employ one of them; better stick to one of the new TBTO and TBTF copper-free anti-fouling paints designed specifically for use on aluminum.

Steel hulls are subject to the same problem as aluminum ones—galvanic corrosion, and must be carefully cleaned and painted each season. Topside repair on steel craft consists of dealing with the effects of oxidation (rust), and an abrasive cleaner should be used on the entire boat. Here is one instance where a disc sander comes into its own; use it on rusted areas, together with a wire brush.

(Continued on page 45.)



THE BOTTOM LINE FLOUNDER FISHING

with Scott Simons

Part II

Last week we discussed the proper tackle to use and some of the fishing techniques employed to catch flounder. This week we'll have a few words on bait, and wind things up with chum and popular chumming techniques next week.

The bait used for flounder can be critical to success because the fish will often show a preference for one over another without any logical reason. One day they might pounce all over a juicy worm and ignore a piece of clam, and the next day or even a tide later turn the tables and prefer the clam. Therefore, it's always a good practice to carry two or more prime baits on any flounder expedition to give finicky feeding fish a choice. Listed below are the prime flounder baits and how and when to use them:

BLOOD WORM: A natural part of the flounders' diet and very popular bait in the south shore bays of Long Island. Best size one-half to three-quarters of an inch in length, so cut into size accordingly. Pass the point of the hook through one of the cut ends and out through the center of the body so that the point protrudes for easy penetration. Bloodworms are not especially aromatic (smelly), particularly after being exposed to the cleansing effect of a few minutes in salt water, so it is advisable to always use a chumpot to gather the fish up.

SANDWORM. Particularly effective on the north shore of Long Island, where they are found in abundance naturally. Should be rigged and used in the same manner as the bloodworm.

EARTHWORM. A good, economical bait for flounder but has one major drawback—the salt water quickly “bleaches” and deteriorates the flesh of the common garden worm or nightcrawler, rendering them worthless as bait. So carry a good supply and change the bait frequently. Can be caught by the angler in quantity in almost any garden or grassy area, particularly after a heavy rain or at night with a flashlight. (See Dick Mermon's article “Night Walkers,” in this issue.)

BANK MUSSELS. Also known as ribbed mussels, these are the type usually sold at bait shops and boat stations for both flounder bait and chum. Would easily win the title for “best flounder bait” hands down if it weren't so difficult to keep on the hook. Although not a primary part of their natural diet,

flounder go after a bright yellow, juicy mussel bait as if it were ice cream. To use, separate the shells with the blade of a knife so that the two halves lie open in a butterfly shape. Carefully scoop out the meat from each half, taking care not to mulch it up during the process. Put the hook through the brown part of the mussel first, then thread the yellow part on three or four times, allowing the remainder to hang off the hook.

Bank mussels can either be purchased at fishing outlets or the angler may collect his own from the marshy bogs near the low water mark found on the edges of most bays and harbors. Care should be taken to “pick” rather than “dig” the mussels, which will more than likely damage or destroy the habitat for future crops of mussels. To a large extent, this has already occurred in many of the south shore bays and in the Peconics due to uncaring anglers and commercial “bay” men.

Whole mussels can be stored under refrigeration for a short time and retain their effectiveness as long as they are not frozen. Shucked mussels can be stored for longer periods of time if salted down well with kosher salt and stored in the refrigerator, but their effectiveness will be somewhat diminished. Although at one time I advised steaming the mussels to open the shells and toughen up the meat a little, flounder specialist Doc Muller advises against this practice as the mussel loses much of its juicy aromatic qualities. He's gone after a few flatties in his time, so I'll take his word for it.

BLACK MUSSELS. This is the type that are sold in fish markets for human consumption. They are sold as human food by the pound, while the bank mussels sold for bait are sold by the bag, bunch, bushel or whatever is handy. In any case, dollar for dollar, you can purchase more black mussels than bank mussels. (figure that one out, consumers!) The flesh is a darker orange and is not as juicy as the preferred bank mussel, so are not quite as effective. Can be purchased at the local fish market (where, by the way, the money spent is for clean live mussels rather than a lot of empty shells and mud) or it is possible to collect your own at bridge pilings, jetties and rock piles where they attach themselves. Bait-up on the hook with the same method outlined for bank mussels.

TAPEWORM. I only had one experience

with tape worms as flounder bait. About five years ago I was fishing on the starboard jetty of Montauk Lake in December no more than ten feet from an old timer who had a can of tapeworms he was using for bait. They were about a foot long, flat, red on the outside, but a putrid white on the inside when cut up for bait. In about three hours time I had managed two scrumpy flounder on clam and bloodworm while this guy took beautiful thick 1 to 2 pound fish as fast as he could get his line in the water. He finally stopped fishing with a good 50 pounds of big filleting size flounder on a stringer which he had to drag along the jetty over the rocks. He left the can of tapeworms sitting on a rock, which started my adrenalin flowing. After waiting a respectable time (about 15 seconds) I scoffed 'em up and baited up. After two hours without a nibble, I switched back to the clam and bloodworm. Moral to the story: never steal tapeworms from an old-timer on a jetty in December.

I've never seen tapeworms for sale, but I did see an angler come up with a few while digging for blood and sandworms near the Throgs Neck Bridge in Bayside. They are few and far between it seems, and if you do get lucky and dig a good batch, you have storage problems as tapeworms are very perishable.

PIGGY-BACK SNAILS. Another story. Last spring I pulled up a clump of what appeared to be old shells stuck together while flounder fishing. It is not uncommon to snag several of these shell clumps during the course of a day spent flounder fishing—usually I would just unhook them and chuck 'em back in the water. But this time the clump fell off the hook and hit the deck, splitting in half. Lo' and behold, the supposedly “dead” clump turned out to be a series of small half-shells stuck on top of each other piggy-back style. Each shell contained a round, bright orange piece of meat about the size of the nail on your left pinky.

I was fishing two dead rods, one baited with clam and one with bloodworm. Fishing was very slow (last year's run of spring flounder was very slow during February, March and April, and didn't pick up to expectations until May when the run ended) so I removed the clam baits and replaced it with these round pieces of flesh. Bang, bang, bang, one flounder after another as fast as I could bait up. Meanwhile, the worm

baits on the other rod went untouched. Experimenting a little, I rigged up each rod equally with two hooks—one hook worm, the other the snail meat. The next five or six flounder were all taken on the snail meat while the worm still went untouched. When all the snails were gone, the fishing returned to stinko proportions.

Back at home when I started filleting the catch, I opened up the gut of all the fish and guess what I found? Flounder bellies bursting with these round pieces of snail meat. There were many times more than they possibly could have got from me, so the flounder must have been feeding on them naturally. I showed one to Doc Muller, who identified it as a "Limpett" or piggy-back snail to us commoners. Unfortunately, you can't buy this fantastic bait anywhere, but next time you catch a "clump" of dead shells you'd be advised to take a second look.

CLAM. Clam for flounder is one of those hot and cold baits, mostly cold. Flounder will usually show a preference for either mussel or worm, but there are times when the clam will do a number on the flounder, particularly the larger fish of a pound or more that are usually found in deeper water. But clam is an effective flounder bait and will always put fish in the boat in a clutch. You can use skimmer clams, hard shell clams or soft shell (steamer) clams—all seem to work equally effective. One advantage of clam is that it can be frozen without losing its effectiveness, so there isn't any storage problem.

When using clam for bait, stay away from the hard meaty tongue and use either the ribbon-like lips running along the edge of the shell, or the soft gut or belly of it. As a rule, flounder seem to prefer "soft" baits. Cut a piece of the lip about 1½ inches long—thread about half of it onto the hook and allow the remainder to trail off the hook. When using the soft belly, also allow a portion

to trail off.

DYED CLAMS. The visual aspect of the flounders feeding habits is fully illustrated by dyed clams. While plain clam is only a so-so bait, as discussed, dying the clam meat a bright red or even yellow with ordinary food coloring turns it into a dynamite bait. Just shuck a few clams, put them in a bowl and add food coloring. Let stand overnight in the refrigerator, use the next day or freeze for future use. The popular thinking is that a red-dyed clam imitates a bloodworm, but I personally believe it more closely resembles a tapeworm because the dye only colors the outer skin of the meat. When cut for bait, the outer portion is red and the inner meat is the lighter clam color, closely resembling a cut tapeworm. In any case, dyed clams have proved to be suitable substitute for the premium-priced worm, and have progressively gained popularity with flounder fishermen as the cost of blood and sandworms has risen.

CORN. Here we go again. Some years back, an enterprising angler discovered that flounder will bite on kernals of corn for some reason. Controversy developed when it was suspected that using corn for bait or chum may do harm to the flounder's digestive system and even kill them. But research undertaken by Senior Aquatic Biologist Phillip Brigs at the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation proved these fears unfounded. In any case, corn will take its share of flounder, so it can't hurt to carry a small can or two on your boat for those inevitable times that you run out of a more preferred bait.

LINGUINE. Unfortunately, linguine in tomato sauce is not an effective flounder bait, much to my great chagrin and the delight of bait sellers everywhere.

Next week we'll get into the all-important chumming techniques for flounder.

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PECONIC BAY FLOUNDER

by Dr. William A. Muller

Part One: Robin's Island

Although excellent flounder fishing exists in the extreme western portions of the bay, both on the north side at Jamesport and on the south side at Flanders and Shinnecock, I will dismiss these areas for the moment. In this series I will concentrate on the middle territory from Robin's Island to the east side of Shelter Island.

Each locale has its little idiosyncrocies and Peconic Bay is no exception. The goal of this series is to share with you what I have learned from fishing this area for about 25 years so that you can improve your own success.

Fishing for flounder around Robin's Island is rarely productive before the middle of March and if the weather remains cold the fishing may not be worthwhile until the very end of March or even the first few days of April. There is only one really good season for flounders here and that's in the spring. The fall fish are not as abundant or as large.

Therefore, the angler who has his sights on big east-end flounder must plan his strategy for the time period that begins the first week in April and ends the first or second week in May. If the fisherman is limited to one or two trips I'd pick the middle of April.

Bait:

Although this opinion is not shared by other local fishermen, as far as I am concerned there is only one bait to use in all of the Peconics, with the exception of Gardiner's Island, and that's mussels! That may be a very heavy statement, but I have sufficiently proven this to myself dozens and dozens of times. The fish will take clams and worms but not with the same enthusiasm that they will show for mussels.

Rigs:

A quick declaration will suffice on this topic. Use a two-hook tandem rig and leave spreaders either in the stores or at home! (See Diagram.)

How To Fish the West Side of the Island:

The area around buoy 4 (red nun) is almost never worked over by flounder fishermen. Still, the channel carries the bulk of the water that flows into Great Peconic Bay through the North Race on



Dominie Coluccio carefully threads half a mussel on a number 8 Chestertown hook.

the incoming tide. Therefore, many of the flounder that will move about in the northern portion of the bay will use this natural swim-way. True, the fish will be dispersed over a large bottom area, but chumming and patience can overcome this problem.

The shallow water close to the west shore of Robin's Island also has the potential to yield large flounder. Once again few anglers explore this water. Local fishermen, however, can be found drifting close to the beach when the wind is right. The drift must be slow and parallel to the beach. For the most part drifting is more productive than still fishing because of the sand and pebble bottom. It is difficult to concentrate the fish with chum and it is unlikely that you will find any significant clusters of the flatties. Still, the fish are bruisers pushing over three pounds.

Along the southwestern shore the bottom in 10-20 feet of water becomes quite rocky. The two biggest rocks are Robin's Island Rock which is close to shore and exposed on all tides, and Roger's Rock which is more offshore and is close to the surface at low tides but rarely shows itself. Anglers seeking blackfish commonly anchor in this area, but it should be noted that heavy

chumming can produce good catches of flounders at times.

When you tell someone to fish in the South Race they immediately head for the swift water between the southern tip of Robin's Island and the northern tip of Cow Neck. However, the South Race is really a channel that extends from the east side of Robin's Island through the cut between the island and Cow Neck and on towards Shinnecock. The channel is marked by occasional red buoys.

Flounder move about on the mud in the bottom of the channel and as you move away from the restricted water, flow near Cow Neck the strength of the current is more suitable to anchoring and chumming. The most successful fishermen use a depth finder to locate minor depressions, troughs, and holes in the channel. Once they have found a spot which will potentially hold a cluster of fish these anglers chum heavily with crushed mussels and "wait out" the fish. A chum pot is a must. Unconfined crushed mussels will feed the fish and drift away from the boat with the tide.

In spite of the fact that the tide runs heavily between Robin's Island and Cow Neck, some very large fish are taken here. Early in the season, during late March until the end of April, the boats



Western Peconic early season fish. Do you still think you have to go to Quincy?

will anchor within a few hundred feet west-northwest of the black gong buoy at the southern tip of the island. You will

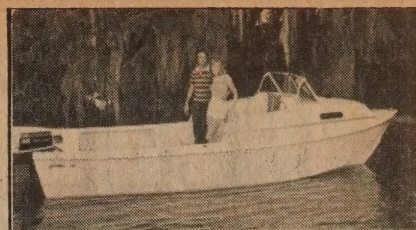
need over a hundred feet of stout anchor line and a large anchor to "set" properly in the fierce rushing water. The incoming tide is best but slack water sometimes is more productive and this phenomena is related to moon phases and current speed. New moon and full moon produce larger than usual tidal deviations and hence the current speed increases. When the water rushes too quickly the flounders remain quiet in the mud, but as the tide slacks they begin to scurry about for food.

Later in the season, as the fish begin to migrate out to sea, the flounder are very temporary residents in the fast water. They will swim by the thousands from Great Peconic Bay into Little Peconic Bay with each outgoing tide. At such times it's very difficult to hold the fish with chum. Thus, the boats will drift through the shallow flats close to Cow Neck. The fishermen cover more territory but this approach demands light winds. The tidal push alone is sometimes too strong for the fish to keep up with baits as they "fly" along. You'll need at least 5 ounces of lead to hold bottom. Yet, given the right conditions drifting off Cow Neck amounts to an enjoyable day of flounder fishing.

The North Race has lost some of its productivity in recent years due chiefly to movement of sand from the area to the west into the deep water of the race. Mud holes have been covered with sand and pebbles.

However, the bottom about 500 feet south-southeast of the "big rock" off New Suffolk produces nice fat fish and the deep portion of the Race due south of the green roofed ship yard building is excellent at times during late March.

Next week in Part II—The East Side of Robin's Island to Jessups Neck.



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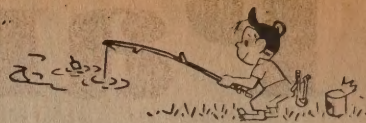
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FRESHWATER FISHING

with Angelo Peluso

GET READY



Well, the groundhog has made an appearance and if all goes as the little critter's preview would indicate, spring is comin' around the bend. Funny thing, my senses already seem to know this; my reel hand has begun to develop an insatiable itch, while my rod arm false casts through holding fly rod. Invariably this happens each and every year just prior to the opening of the trout season.

This desire to fish triggers within me a signal that says, "Get Ready", and that's just what I intend to do during the next month. Preparation for me begins with a review of my notes and log book for facts relating to the happenings of the previous year. You would be mighty surprised at the insight this type of information can give. The basic matter contained in my notes is such that I am able to refer back to various trips in order to recall the events that took place: where the fish were caught (if any), on what fly pattern, the time of day, air temperature, water temperature, hatch periods, etc.

My primary interest during this pre-season "get-ready" phase is to zero in on the How? What? and Where? of early season troutling. How did I do on opening day 1975? What bait form did I use? When did I use it? and Where was I?

After analyzing all of the available information I will consider possibilities for opening day. One motivating factor is that of no crowds. I prefer to choose a location that is away from the maddening hoards that are present on opening day; the masses that huddle together in search of trout and have more luck hooking one another. One such scene that I witnessed two years ago reminded me of a buffalo watering hole. As you have probably guessed by now, I prefer to fish the out-of-the-way places. Those locales that are infrequently visited. Believe me, there are such places on Long Island.

This brings me to my next pre-season step. Upon making an opening day selection, I will make it my business to scout the location prior to April 1. Though I will most likely be familiar with the area I choose to fish (sometimes I'll try new water), I nevertheless feel that an early scouting visit is extremely worthwhile. If the trip is made rather close to the actual opening day, the angler can get a fair estimate of what the conditions should be like on the opener.

Now I say "fair" since conditions can change dramatically, relative to the changes in the weather.

Those who consistently fish the Catskill streams of angling fame know well how stream status can change from one day to the next. A severe rainstorm can change a mildly meandering stream into a menacing flow. But, for the most part, with weather being fairly consistent, you should be able to get a good feel for what you will be up against. Check for any changes in the flow of the water that might have either an adverse or beneficial effect on the early season fishing. Also examine the stream bed and banks for any newly created "structure": submerged logs, undercuts, wing dams, pot holes, etc. Each of these can affect the type and quality of the fishing that you will have ahead of you in the early season. A pre-season trip of this nature is good for the spirit. It tends to psyche one up and also tends to make the days just prior to the season anxiety filled ones.

Once the selection of an opening day site is made my activities are concentrated on sharpening my angling skills and making certain that the necessary gear is all ready to go. Since preventive maintenance steps were applied following the close of the 1975 season, there really isn't too much to do by way of tackle preparation. I'll spend some time

making leaders and steaming matted flies, but for the most part I'll concentrate the rest of my efforts on getting the ole' casting form back. They say that practice makes perfect so out of the closet comes my favorite fly outfit and out into the backyard I go. But I can't stay there too long because my mind is really on fish and fishing.

One thing that I enjoy doing before the season begins is to take a short trip to the Cold Spring Harbor fish hatchery. Here the angler is able to see our trout management program in action. One is also able to see "trout of a lifetime". Some of the breeder stock is very impressive (size that is). The avid Long Island trout enthusiast would be doing him or herself a great favor by visiting this facility. The raceways and holding tanks hold the fish that eventually find their way to the streams and lakes of Long Island. After a visit I'll guarantee that April 1 cannot come fast enough. This place can surely get the adrenalin flowing.

For those of you that have made up your minds to join the rest of us on opening day, let me give you a couple of pertinent tips. The early portion of the season is traditionally a live bait time of the year. Now I know that there are those of you out there who will look with an upturned nose at the live bait fishermen,

(Continued on page 21.)

Panfishing

by Matt Ahern

Fresh water fishermen pioneered the use of ultra-light tackle. When sport-loving panfishermen discovered there wasn't much fun involved when catching panfish with heavy, unwieldy bamboo poles, they took the trout fisherman's light, whippy fly rod to heart.

With the advent of ultra-light spinning rods and matching reels filled with two to four-pound test monofilament line, the panfisherman came into his own. Here was tackle with which he could milk the sport to the nth degree.

Nowhere will you find these gamey fish approaching the weight of most salt water fish. What would be considered a large panfish will seldom go over two pounds. What, then, is the attraction?

The attraction is simply that they are plentiful, scrappy for their size, and always willing to bite. There are probably panfish within a short distance of your home, providing loads of fun on light tackle for fishermen of your neighborhood.

Let's take a look at some of the more popular ones.

BLUEGILL

Without a doubt, the bluegill sunfish is the most popular panfish in the United States; more fishermen seek this scrappy fish than any other. Here is a fish that provides fun for millions of fishermen from coast to coast.

When taken on ultra-light spinning tackle, the bluegill becomes quite a scrapper, possessing plenty of heart, battling every inch of the way, never surrendering until landed.

Preferring clear lakes and warm water, bluegills are gluttonous feeders, making them easy prey for the fisherman with patience and knowledge.

As will most fresh water fish, these large sunfish shun the heat of day and will often be found in the deeper, cooler spots. During early morning and evening, look for them in water from two to three feet deep.

The bluegill is also an excellent fish for the fly fisherman, and a delicately cast dry fly such as the Royal Coachman will seldom be refused. Nor will a wet fly such as the Black Gnat, especially if the fisherman uses a small spinner blade a few inches before the fly. One panfisherman of my acquaintance claims the use of the spinner is often the difference between plenty of bluegills and few.

But as much fun as artificials can be, most fishermen use some form of live bait. About the best is the old reliable garden worm, or nightcrawler. Bluegills will also take grasshoppers and crickets, but nothing excels the garden hackle.

During early morning and evening, bluegills will be found in shallow water around weed beds and in the shadows of rafts and piers. Few will be found around logs and stumps, but if fishing in water at least fifteen to twenty feet, as from a boat, look for areas containing large boulders. There you will always find bluegills.

When fishing shallow water, casting from a boat or from shore, it is best to use a light rig consisting of a ¼ ounce dipsey sinker. Place this on the line by using a number 10 brass snap-swivel. Use a plain, unsnelled number six Sproat hook about twelve inches above the sinker by making a two-inch loop with a double overhand knot. Run the loop through the hook eye and then over the hook and pull tightly. Bait with inch pieces of worm. This rig is my own innovation and it catches bluegills every time without fail.

Some fishermen like to use a bobber in shallow water, but with this rig it isn't necessary. Many times fish will feel the drag of the bobber and drop the bait, but if you rig as noted,

you will seldom miss. Just be sure sinker is on bottom.

Of course, when the fish are hugging bottom in deep water, a bobber is of no value. This was brought out to me one time while fishing Lake Ronkonkoma.

I was fishing in twenty feet of water and hooking one fat bluegill after another. Nearby sat several fishermen in boats using bobbers afixed about four feet above their bait.

While I was taking fish rapidly as the bait could get down to the feeding fish, not one bluegill did they catch until one observant fisherman changed over and immediately began getting action. Soon everyone followed suit, with the result that each fisherman took all the bluegills he desired. Use that little rig as described. It always gets fish.

One last thing of importance about bluegills: they are extremely spooky. Approach each spot you intend fishing quietly. Lower the anchor gently; no stamping of feet or dragging of tackle boxes across floorboards should be done while fishing. To do so is to assure the loss of all bluegills in the immediate area.

CRAPPIES

The fisherman who knows of a lake containing crappies is in for great sport. These fish are usually larger in average size than most other panfish. The largest on record is a little over five pounds, but most will run closer to a pound. This is usually dependent upon the lake or pond being fished. There are lakes that produce crappies between two and three pounds, but these are few and far between.

There are two distinct varieties of crappies: white and black. The white crappie is the larger of the two and is found mostly in states with normally warmer waters. New England has few white crappies, but New York plays host to both species.

Crappies like the cool water of large, deep lakes which afford plenty of room to move about. They love to roam the entire lake, which means they can't be pinpointed as to a specific area. They do like plenty of weeds and hard bottom and if you troll for them it is best to work back and forth over these areas until located.

As most crappies are caught by still-fishing, they will have to be found by trolling with a spinner and worm combination. The trolling speed should be slow as possible, barely enough to keep the spinner blades turning. This is important as crappies will not hit a fast moving lure. Put over a marker buoy when the first one is taken, and fish near it.

Crappies are fish eaters and love minnows, so replace the spinner with a snelled number 6 or 8 Aberdeen hook. This hook is made of extra-thin wire especially for live bait fishing with minnows. Its uses makes it easy for the fisherman to avoid injuring the minnow's vital parts.

Select a minnow about 1½ inches long and be sure it's lively. It's best to place the hook through the back just under the dorsal fin, being careful not to nick the backbone. Needless to say, weak or dead minnows catch few crappies.

Most crappies will be found three or four feet under the boat, and here the fisherman can use a bobber with good results. The long, slender type called the porcupine quill is recommended.

Dispense with the round bobber, if possible. Crappies are very sensitive to the slightest resistance and will drop the bait immediately if this is felt. By using the porcupine quill this problem is largely overcome.

When the minnow is seized, wait until the bobber is out of sight before striking. Be careful when doing this. All that is needed is a mere tightening of the line; he'll hook himself.

Crappies put up a good scrap, their broad sides getting lots

of leverage. Like a weakfish, they have a weak mouth structure and should be handled with care. Play gently and be sure to slip a net under him.

ROCK BASS

Rock bass always remind me of blackfish. Their pugnacious appearance and their willingness to do battle with the fisherman has always left me with a soft spot in my fishing heart. I'm a rock bass fan, no doubt about it.

Any cool, clear lake, pond, stream, or quietly moving river has its share of rock bass. As the name implies, rock bass haunt any cluster of rocks, rocky ledges, deeply submerged bars and areas cluttered with fallen trees and similar debris. You can be certain of finding them there. It is to the fisherman's advantage to fish as close as possible to these places.

The rock bass isn't a large panfish. The average will be about a half-pound and a one-pounder is good; but what they lack in size they make up by a bulldog determination to stay in the water. He'll give a good account of himself, and he's often a joy to catch when black bass and pickerel put on their occasional finicky act.

A rock bass knows no fear and has no qualms against attacking any lure or bait much larger than itself.

I recall plug casting for black bass one night on Lake Mahopac in Putnam County. Our plugs were at least four inches long, but cast after cast was hit by rock bass half the lure's strength. It was certainly annoying, but their courage has to be admired.

The best bait is a juicy nightcrawler, but any natural bait such as minnows and crawfish will take them. For big rock bass, many panfishermen use the larvae of the dobson fly called the hellgramite, which is also an excellent black bass bait.

To use this bait, run the point of the hook under the hard collar near the head. Watch your fingers; they can give a pretty good pinch. These creatures are hard to come by at times, but some bait stores do carry them. You'll find the smaller rock bass leaving the hellgramite alone; they seem to sense the pinching jaws, but large rockies will take them with gusto.

The same rig used for bluegills will work fine for rock bass. These battlers are easy to hook as they gulp the bait and take off like a blackfish, boring for the nearest obstruction.

Too bad they aren't larger. If they were, they'd be the most popular fish in fresh water.

YELLOW PERCH

Like crappies, the yellow perch like deep, cool water. This is another panfish needing the roaming freedom a lake affords.

The perch is a willing biter and, if there are perch in the lake, there is no problem getting all that is wanted. But they must be hunted.

At times a lucky fisherman will drop over a school immediately and catch perch as fast as the bait is lowered, but as a rule it is best to troll over the weed beds with a double-bladed spinner and worm until a school is located. Use bright spinner blades rather than the more dull brass. Bait with nightcrawlers or ordinary garden worms and be sure to leave a small piece trailing.

Once located, you can anchor or continue trolling, but it is often better to anchor near where your first fish was caught. You can continue to use worms, or switch over to live minnows which is the choice bait for large perch.

Use a snelled number six Aberdeen for this and hook the minnow carefully through the back. A couple split-shot are needed to get the bait down. Give the perch a second or two to move off with the minnow before you strike.

If using worms, the same rig-up mentioned for bluegills will do the trick here. It's best to strike when the first bite is felt. I've noticed that when the hardness of the hook is felt, perch will often spit out the bait, so be prepared to sink the hook immediately when the first touch is felt.

For the largest yellow perch, fish over the weed beds in the deepest part of the lake, even if you must go down thirty or more feet. This is where the largest perch stay, especially during the summer months.

Most panfish bite well at daybreak, but not so the yellow perch. It is best to wait until the sun is up awhile before attempting to take this fish. Many times afternoon fishing is best. Needless to say, yellow perch do not bite at night.

If fishing from shore, a bobber attached three or four feet up will work as well as the bluegill rig, but for consistently large perch, it is best to use a boat.

WHITE PERCH

The white perch is the panfish of special interest to the salt water fisherman. Actually, this fish isn't a perch at all, but a member of the salt water basses, being a cousin to the striper and sea bass. When introduced into land-locked lakes and ponds, this fish does very well.

Shallow, warm water ponds and lakes produce better white perch fishing than do the ones that are cooler and deeper. For example; New Jersey waters produce more white perch on the average than does Maine. White perch in Maine, however, are larger.

Warmer waters produce heavy spawnings of white perch, and wherever this condition exists, they must be continuously thinned out by heavy fishing or other means, else they soon become stunted. Many good white perch ponds and lakes have been ruined because of this.

A boat is a prime necessity when seeking white perch. Successful shallow water fishing can only be done during the evening hours and occasionally at night. During the day, they seek deeper water.

Like the yellow perch, the white perch will reward the fisherman who trolls with a spinner and worm in about thirty feet of water. Some are caught deeper, but most will be found at approximately this depth.

Should your selected fishing area contain less water than this, troll the deepest parts until you hit fish. You can then still-fish if you care to, but it is often better to continue trolling. White perch are continuously on the move, and by trolling the fisherman is able to keep up with the school. Often, fine, fat pickerel are taken when this is done.

Cloudy days often produce better white perch fishing. It is then when they are apt to feed in depths around ten feet. Still fishing is often better then, too, as the fish are more congregated in these depths.

The fisherman will find worms the best bait. These perch will also take pieces of shrimp and blood and sandworms, but the common earthworm works just as well.

When in shallow water in early evening, white perch will also hit a variety of artificials ranging from dry flies to small red and white Dardevle spoons. I've often caught them with these spoons when standing on a lake shore as the sun was setting. This is sport to a high degree, as the white perch is quite spunky.

BULLHEADS

Bullheads are a very accomodating fish for the panfisherman. No matter where one fishes in the inland waters of these United States, there are bullheads anxiously awaiting the fisherman's offerings, always hungry, never refusing bait. If you've never fished for bullheads, you've missed out on great sport and some fine eating.

There are three species of bullheads: black, brown and yellow. The difference is so slight, fishermen seldom distinguish between them. If you fish in New York State, those you catch will be mostly browns. New Jersey has all three species; most other states contain at least two.

Bullheads are seldom caught during the cold months, the weather must have some semblance of moderation, usually sometime in May. This is when the experienced bullhead fisherman hies himself to the nearest lake or pond on the first cloudy day, or warm, drizzly night. Here he plants himself on the bank, baits up, lowers the bait to the muddy bottom and waits.

He seldom has long to wait. Soon comes the unmistakable tugging at the bait. The fisherman waits a moment, lifts the bamboo pole in one sweep and he has his first bullhead, soon to be followed by more.

The badge of the bullhead fisherman has long been the

unwieldy bamboo pole. Though still in use today, its popularity is slowly diminishing as more and more fishermen take up the spinning rod and reel. With this, the fisherman has discovered that while the bullhead isn't the greatest fighter in the fish-world, he does give a good account of himself.

Bullhead fishing is usually best from an hour before sunset to about midnight when they seem to go off their feed. At least from my own experiences in the wee hours of the morning, this has been so. Dark, cloudy days will often set them to biting, but I would forget bright, sunny days unless the water is naturally murky.

When bullhead fishing it is best to modify your rigging and tackle just a bit. Substitute the lighter monofilament used to catch other panfish to one of ten pound test. Sometimes bullheads will go to three pounds and, in the dark, the heavier line will be a welcome aid in landing the fish.

Bullheads have large mouths, therefore the other change should be to replace the smaller hooks with a 1/0 long-shanked hook such as the Carlisle. Bullheads have the annoying habit of taking the hook deeply.

Bring a light of some sort to aid in baiting and removing fish from the hook. The Coleman lamps are excellent for this, but be sure not to shine it directly on the water. Bullheads will stop biting if you do.

It isn't necessary to fish from shore, of course. Boat fishermen do as well. Just be sure you are over mud bottom.

Bullheads will take a variety of baits ranging from worms to doughballs to chicken entrails. I've heard of some fishermen using pieces of soap, and they swear by it. I've never used it, but nothing surprises me about bullheads.

Commercial "stink" baits are offered through mail-order and they work well. One word of caution: the name isn't given in jest. Be prepared to stand back when opening the container, or when preparing it for use.

As kids, we made an effective bullhead bait by mixing a quantity of flour, water and a small amount of sugar. We kneaded it to the consistency of bread dough, put a piece the size of a dime on the hook and we were in business.

Though Long Island is highly industrialized, good to excellent panfishing is still found in many of its ponds, streams, and lakes. Some of these are located in the midst of heavily populated areas, but they still produce good fishing, often offering less fishing pressure than one might expect.

A good example of this is Baisley Park Pond, located several miles south of Jamaica. Surrounded by busy residential area, known for its excellent carp fishing, this pond produces bluegills and common sunfish. It is said to contain yellow perch and crappies, but I have never caught them there. Look for an occasional bullhead, too.

Freeport Reservoir contains bluegills, some bluegills, some bullheads and a few crappies. Fish near the dam for best results.

Just north of Roosevelt's business district, on the North Merrick line, is Washington Avenue pond. Here can be caught bluegills, yellow perch and bullheads. Fish the deeper water on the western end for good-sized yellow perch.

Lake Ronkonkoma is not only Long Island's largest lake, it also contains large fish. I have taken many large yellow perch from its shores by substituting small, lively killies in place of freshwater minnows. Bullheads, some rock bass and fat bluegills are available.

The Peconic River system offers much action for the dedicated panfisherman. White and yellow perch, with the white predominating, are plentiful. Ditto bullheads, bluegills and crappies. Occasionally, rock bass are taken—but not often.

Wildwood Lake in Riverhead contains large yellow perch. For best perch fishing, a boat is recommended. This lake also has rock bass, bullheads and common sunfish. There have been occasional rumors of large crappies taken from the south end. Could be worth a try.

For the fisherman out east, Long Pond near Sag Harbor is good, as is Montauk's Fort Pond.

There are so many ponds and lakes on Long Island containing panfish, it would take a separate article to list them. Those listed here are those from which I've caught fish, or can vouch for. There are panfishing ponds and lakes near most towns and villages. It is a good idea to take a leisurely

Sunday afternoon drive and check out the ones in which you have an interest.

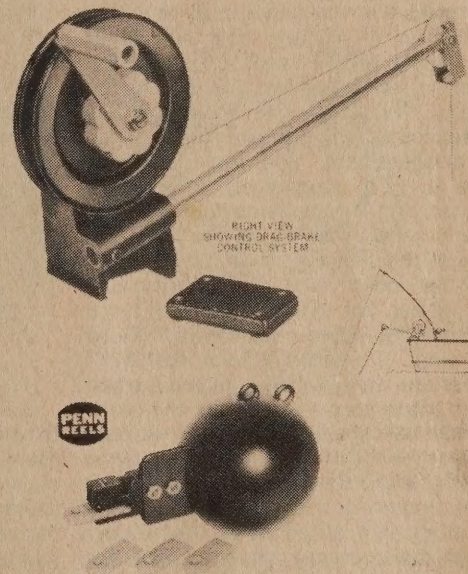
Most panfish are caught in such large numbers, the fisherman often wonders if he's doing the right thing by keeping so many fish. The fisherman has nothing to worry about; by so doing he is helping to improve his fishing. Panfish are extremely prolific and often become stunted if not kept under control.

This is the reason most states have no closed season or limit on them. Occasionally you will find a locality with a limit or closed season on a certain species, therefore it is always best to check the fish and game laws when applying for a license.

Not only are panfish loads of fun, but they are fine eating. There isn't one of these fish that won't make a gourmet's mouth water when prepared according to a favorite recipe.

Give these exciting panfish a try and have a ball. You won't forget it, and you'll soon know why panfishing is often called America's favorite fishing.

NEW PRODUCTS



PENN BUILDS DEEP TROLLER & FISHING WEIGHT BALL

To fill a growing market, Penn Fishing Tackle, long known for its fishing reels, announces the manufacture of a new deep trolling device, the Penn FATHOM MASTER #600.

Deep trolling is a successful method of taking a lure or bait down to a desired depth. The fishing line is attached to a weight which disengages like an outrigger when a fish strikes, leaving the line free for direct fighting of the fish.

The FATHOM MASTER may be used in fresh or saltwater, as all parts are durable and corrosion resistant. It is equipped with a cable footage counter for exact control of depth (200 ft. of 135 lb. test stainless steel wire is included), and a drag brake system as on the Penn "Senator".

A fishing weight ball of 10 lbs. is also being marketed by Penn. It is called "FATHOM TROLL" and has built-in advances over present weights on the market. All materials used are corrosion resistant. For information and details, contact Penn Fishing Tackle Mfg. Co., 3028 W. Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. 19132.

Rainy Day Rainbow

by Ron Miller

As I left my home that morning, a light mist was in the air. It was the type of mist that cannot be called rain, but still blankets everything with a thin film of wetness, giving one the feeling of being in a dimly lit plastic coated world.

Windshield wipers working like a metronome keeping time to the country music on the car radio, I drove to my favorite Long Island trout stream for a morning of solitude and relaxation.

I parked in the usual spot, and was suited up in waders, vest and other equipment when I heard a rustle in the brush a few feet down the trail to the stream. Looking up, I became as motionless as the doe who stared at me in bewilderment. She had blundered onto a path dangerously close to a human, and it became obvious that she didn't know what to do, as she first gauged the distance across the wide trail and then looked back into the brush just behind her. She looked at me with those big beautiful eyes, and I said, "Good morning!" It was that kind of morning. I guess she sensed that I meant her no harm, because she looked into the brush behind her again, and began to walk across the open trail, followed by a spotted fawn! They both glanced my way once more in mute answer to my greeting, and walked off into the woods. That experience was enough to make my day, but I had come to fish, and the stream beckoned just fifty yards away.

The doe made me painfully aware that I had left my camera in the car and I retrieved it to head once more to the stream, and my favorite spot at a pool created by a wing dam at the bottom of a picturesque wide area of the Carman River in Southaven Park. At this pool, the stream drops from just below knee depth to just over belt deep. It seems (to me) that all the trout in the river congregate to wait for their meals in this one pool. It is not more than ten feet across at its widest point, beginning from its head at the opening of the dam and running across a clear graveled bottom up to waving grass full of ripples, and, I found larger trout just at its tail.

In the spring, when the season officially opened, I have fished this pool to catch and release tiny native brown trout who were unwise to the ways of a small black nosed dace streamer. Weeks later these chunky little fish would hit



"There are trout under those branches."

the fly, take a run to let me see them, then spit it out as though we were playing a game. I had a laugh at their spunkiness, and if one did not shake the barbless hook himself, I gently released him to come back and play another day.

But on this rainy day, the season was well open, the stream had been stocked more than two months before with brook and rainbow trout, and I was here hopefully to catch the evening's main course on our family dinner menu.

After tying a black wooly worm to the two pound test tippet I stepped into the stream to begin working the grassy edges and pockets, seeking fat little brook trout, or if luck was with me, a native brown. I worked the stream from my entry point to the pool without success. I'm still a novice fly fisherman, and tend to be a little clumsy in the stream, which is probably the main reason for my particular failure on an open stream, but when approaching a pool, the stealth of a distant indian ancestor emerges to transfer a noisy splash into a silent stalker. I find I am comfortable at a pool, continuing to practice reading the various paths the water takes through it until I am sure I know exactly where each trout is holding

while in wait for his meal.

To the dry fly purist, my tactics may be frowned upon, but I prefer streamers and wet flies, as I believe they are by far the most productive artificial lure the fly fisherman can use. Of course, a small garden hackle (worm) with a number 14 hook hidden in it just about guarantees a fish on every cast, but this is forbidden on most managed trout streams. In Southaven Park the use of live bait is restricted to the Hard's Lake portion of the Carman River. This is the lake at the southernmost portion of the Park. There is a cement dam about midway upstream. From this point northward, fly rods and artificials are the rule, so leave the garden hackle home to do their thing in the garden.

At the pool, water from the wide part of the stream courses through the wing dam with a stronger rush on the up-stream right side, running around the wooden wall into a deep pocket. There is less of a push at the left side of the dam, due to the shallowness of the water at this side.

Taking a position upstream and to the left of the vee formed by the dam, I began casting a small muddler minnow to the rip that would carry the streamer

through the deep right pocket. I allowed it to drift down and deep through the pool and up into the grassy area at the tail. I thought I noticed a slight pickup, but was too slow to react, and let the lure complete its full swing. With a roll cast pick up, I put the muddler back in precisely the same spot as its original starting point, to repeat the same drift. On the third cast, it was picked up by a fat brookie. Setting the hook, I quickly backed upstream to lead the trout from the pool and let him continue his battle in the shallow water above the pool. A brief but valiant battle followed, but the brook trout ended his life on the way to my creel.

Back at the headwaters of the pool, I cast the muddler again. This time, I went for the left side of the funnel, just in case the other trout were spooked by the action of their recently departed relative. I try to get a hooked fish out of a pool as soon as possible for this reason. Trout are spooky enough without having one of them holding a free-for-all battle in their midst. Again, as the muddler was carried past the end of the wooden dam into the shadow of the overhanging grass on the left bank, there was a slight tug. Again, I set the hook and backed upstream. A twin of my first fish stuck his head and shoulders out of the water in attempt to shake the streamer, but he soon joined his cousin in the creel.

I changed flies this time, tying on a brown wooly worm. This I cast to the right and into the little rip that flowed along the upstream side of the dam wall, where it was quickly drawn into the current deep and around the barrier. No takers. Allowing the current to carry the fly through and across the pool, I waited until it was well downstream before I tried a roll cast pickup. Pleased with myself because of the response of my equipment to the ministrings of a bumble fingered novice, I took a break. Lighting my pipe, I sat on a log on the edge of the stream and enjoyed the tranquility of the setting.

As I sat watching, a family of mallards swam downstream, the parent ducks calling to their young to remind them to stay on the opposite side of the stream from me, and a muskrat, arriving via some underwater route, began to chew on the plant life growing on and over the wall of the dam. I would not have noticed him if his noisy chewing had not given his position away. It was comical to watch him chew a straight line through the plants, apparently starting below the surface of the water and then climbing up to the top of the dam to sit hunched over his meal.

I rose to begin fishing again, and slowly waded to the spot from which I had been casting. Apparently these roots were so succulent that "Brer Rat" just ignored me as I began waving my rod

back and forth stripping line for a cast. The breeze at my back helped to lift my line on the back cast, and carry it high and forward to let the brown wooly worm land gently on the surface to be carried once more into the current. The fly landed just far enough upstream to be carried into the bubbling rig and down into the depth of the pool. Another strike! A third brookie joined my creel. Two casts later I had a fourth fish on, landed and released. Ten casts later, nothing had happened, so I changed to a number 12 zug bug nymph. On the third cast with this fly, I had my fifth brook trout and was about to call it a day. As I was releasing him, a showy, splashy rise to the left of the pool caught my attention and I saw the steely silhouette of a good rainbow arch back below the surface.

I had to try for him! I changed to a lighter tippet, and tied on a royal coachman dry fly. If I were successful, it would be my first fish caught on a dry fly.

I waded stealthily across to the right of the stream and cast to the rip on the left that would float the fly across the trout's holding spot. I thought I saw a rise and a slight swirl but could not be sure. The coachman was still on its way downstream, so I guessed the fish just came up for an inspection pass. I lifted the rod tip, and with another roll cast pick up, false cast several times to dry the fly and then put it just a few feet upstream from its first landing point. It floated on in the current following its previous path, to be suddenly interrupted by a spectacularly leaping rainbow trout who, in his zealous attack on the coachman, set his own hook. The bow made four beautiful leaps to display both his acrobatic ability and anger at being duped into attacking the gaudy artificial. I enjoyed the show for a few minutes, then quickly brought him to net, to admire his beautiful coloring and with happy reluctance, watch him swim away from my hands as I released him.

Cleaning the trout at streamside, I laid them on the platform of a nearby duckblind to photograph. It began to rain huckblind as I returned my camera to cover, and with the heavier rain I became aware of a bad leak in the collar of my hooded rain jacket, and made a fast retreat to my car.

That evening, I admired my rainy day trout again, this time sauteed to perfection in a white wine and butter sauce with almonds sprinkled gently if not lovingly on them, with a crisp caesar salad on the side, and a crackling cold bottle of white chablis.

Memories of the events on the stream and the flavor of that self caught entree provided an evenings meal that could not have been enjoyed more, or as much, if it had been served at the Hard's mansion in the old days when Southaven was a

private game preserve. Those could afford it fished this stream to have their leisure pursuits interrupted for a stream side luncheon served on fine blue china, with wines in crystal goblets. Now, it costs just one dollar to fish all day on one of the most beautiful streams on Long Island, and pretend for a little while that you are one of the affluent guests of the old days.

Southaven is a Suffolk County Park, open to the residents of Suffolk for picnicking and other leisure pastimes, but open to all licensed fishermen for the price of an all day permit. There is a three fish limit on trout, six (State) on large-mouth bass, but no limit on whatever else you can catch from eels and bullheads to bluegills and the ubiquitous bait stealing yellow perch.

Where else can you spend a beautiful day on a stream, wondering what the poor people are doing? Tight lines.



FRESHWATER FISHING

(Continued from page 16.)

but remember that the lowly little earth worm is about the deadliest bait you can expect to use during the days of April. Fished in a natural manner, close to the bottom of the stream or area of the lake that you are fishing, the worm will be a consistent scorer. Small weighted wet fly patterns also work well on the Island's streams during early spring and will most assuredly account for some nice stringers. Most of the well known patterns in sizes of 12 and 14 have worked quite well for me. As sure as I am writing this column, there will be those members of the trouting fraternity out on opening day with fly rod in hand and dry fly attached to the end of the tippet. Such was my situation last opening day, and I caught fish. One of the most popular Long Island patterns during the opening places of the season is the Adams fly. This killer of the Catskills takes its toll from the streams of Long Island.

As I conclude this article I can't help but glance over at the rod I have propped up against my bookcase. As soon as I dot the last "i" I am going to take that rod, go down to the nearest lake and work some of the kinks out of this winter-weary arm. Take care. See you April 1.

NIGHT WALKER HUNTING

by Dick Merman

During the term of my early fishing days, I took great pride in apprehending trout bait, for there were few shops which handled night crawlers, in Brooklyn, New York. To me, it is as much a pleasantry as fishing at times. Actually, worming belongs to a classification within the hunting sport.

In the same manner as hunting, there is an art to catching these swift reactors of the ground. There are periods when hunting this bait becomes a chore and a strain to the back. Not because of the strength demanded to extract them from the ground, but the angle of position assumed during the entire hunt.

Nighttime is the select span in which these worms are obtained, so a flashlight is required. The light should not be extremely bright, but subdued slightly.

Worms, especially night crawlers, are very sensitive to any sudden illumination since they have become accustomed to the darkness. A handkerchief covering the beam of the flashlight will tone the illumination down to the exact brightness required.

A miserable type weather is basically the best to hunt night walkers. By this I mean cool, rainy nights. During the early spring, worms push forth from below the frost line of the ground, upwards, breaking the surface and creating small mounds of soil. They work their way out of the hole slowly, like a cobra from a basket, searching the night air. Deliberate in movement, these worms extract themselves from their homes in the ground, exploring and probing the area for a mate. If the night is dry and warm, they will not extract themselves completely from the hole. Once the ground has received moisture, such as dew or rain, night prowling worms will ascend.

For all purposes, wind restrains them slightly from coming out. Granting there is rain accompanied with wind, worms are inclined to withdraw from their holes ever so slightly. Obstacles such as twigs, old leaves, pieces of grass, etc are blown about and disturb the worms nightly derivation. Moisture soothes their cautiousness, but never completely. It is the quiet type of night rain which is best. During this period, worms leave their flooded homes below the ground surface and move about freely.

The flashlight should be grasped in



With the weak hand, grab the end which enters the hole and gently pull upwards. The worm will stretch and release its hold of the ground.

the strongest of the two hands. The reason for this is, worms are tender creatures and break in half if they are pulled with force. Therefore the weak hand does the removing, while the strong holds the light and carrying can, or box.

One of the most common places to begin worm hunting is right in one's own front or back yard. This is an area which is always overlooked. If there are no signs of worms there, empty lots, school yards, ball fields, or parks should be considered. Golf courses are seldom profitable worm locations because these same worms, which aerate the soil, fashion small earth mounds in doing so. These mounds create hazards on the

gold course. Hence, the greenskeeper must destroy the worms by means of insecticides.

Once the location of earth mounds has been found, the task of catching these prowlers of the night is at hand. Either on bended knees or standing in an arched position, the light is directed downward onto the ground, about two feet in front. The beam is worked back and forth from one side to the other in a sweeping motion, SLOWLY. Eyes should be focused to the outside of the beam, in the direction the light is sweeping, for telltale signs of a worm. At times they will reflect the light from their moist bodies, or a slight movement will occur. When a worm is spotted, a

split second decision must be reached. Where to make the grab, head tail or middle. But, which is which, and where is the head? Which is the tail? By the time the decision reaches the finger tips and the hand descends, the worm is gone, that fast. It takes but a blink of the eye for a spooked night crawler to withdraw into his hole.

A simple way to meet this complex situation is to bring the light onto, then quickly off the worm again, keeping it slightly illuminated. This way it will not spook, or zip back into the hole. The worms head is pointy, like a ball point pen, and will always be out of the hole. The tail is flat and is the part which draws itself backwards at first sign of danger. The hole in the soil may be round but the tail, which flattens out, expands, and holds in place or withdraws the entire body. Now, when a worm is observed, make a grab for the end nearest the hole, or place a finger onto the section where the worm is coming from. This will prevent the crawler from drawing backwards. Grasp the upper part and pull lightly. If the worm reacts with restraint, a steady, but gentle tug will succeed in withdrawing him out in one piece. Broken worms will die and should be discarded.

One word of caution should be directed to you at this time about sound. Softness in walking must be generated at all times. Worms are very sensitive to sound vibrations, especially on the ground. If you walk like an elephant, better learn to step like a flea when hunting night crawlers.

Keeping crawlers fresh until used should be no problem, providing you have a refrigerator, or a bait box filled with moist "Worm Buzz". I have kept several dozen night walkers in a cigar box with folded moist newspaper and fed them hard boiled egg yolk, sugar, and used coffee grounds. Naturally, they were constantly refrigerated. In the many years of night worm raising, I have shared in a few slight accidents, such as the worms getting out of the box and crawling throughout the refrigerator. Or forgetting to place them into the cooler and they died. Believe me, if you think bunker chum has an aroma, try rotten night walkers.

During the summer, or the hot "dog days", worms do not come out of the ground unless it is moist. They also become much more sensitive to light. The ground becomes hot and hard. Worms then seek cooler temperatures. Spells like these cause the worms to become scarce, and an amateur worm hunter will go empty handed. It would be better to purchase the bait rather than hunt them down, unless it is raining. Still, they offer a challenge as in a hunt and I have been skunked many times in hunts, and many times in worm picking.



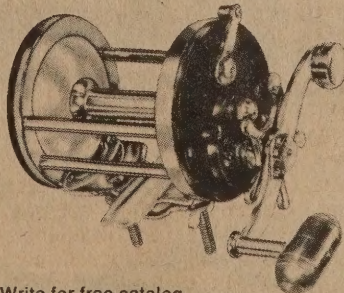
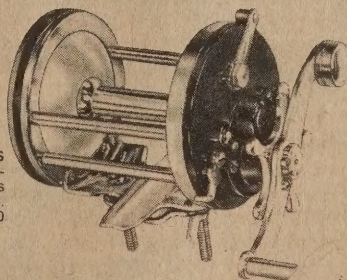
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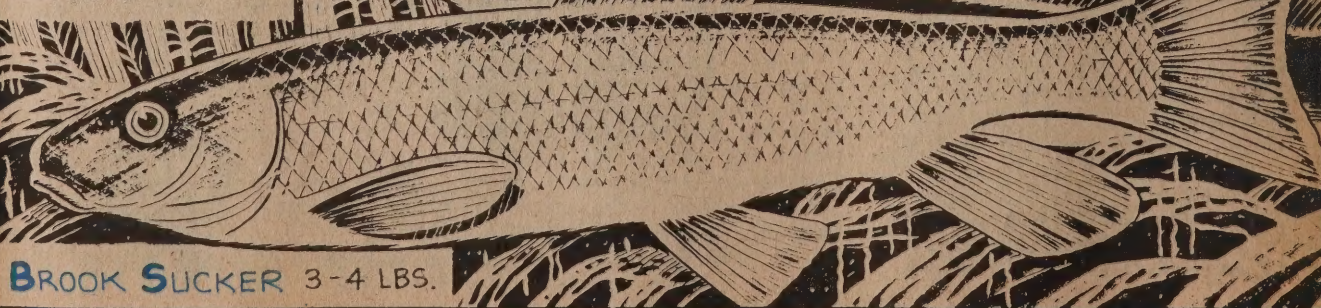


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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** reported that the codfishing was slow on Saturday south of Block Island. Only 20 cod were taken for 7 guys and hi-hook was 6 fish. The fish were small averaging 3 to 10 pounds.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** reported tremendous fishing on Saturday and Sunday off of Block Island. The cod averaged 18 to 20 pounds and the pool fish was over 30. A few pollack and large blackfish were mixed in with the catch.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin III** also reported doing well over the weekend in the Block Island area. The poolfish has been in the 30 to 35 pound category.

PROMISED LAND

Promished Land Fishing Station reports good sized flounder are starting to whallop baits in Napeague Harbor, up to 2 pounds. Bloodworms and mussel are the baits and mussel chumming works very well. Saturday was good and even on Sunday in the morning, twenty nine good size flounder were brought in by one skiff.

HAMPTON BAYS

Captain Clark Jr. and Sr. have both spent the winter season overhauling



Ed Henderson of Eastport shows off his catch of 19 flounders he took on bloodworms just west of the Westhampton Bridge. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

their boats, and are now ready for the flounder season. Clark Jr. of the **Captain Clark** will make his first trip on Friday, March 26th for flounder. Clark Bellows Sr. of the **Captain Clark II** is now booking flounder charters for the month of April. Both boats sail from the Shinnecock Canal and will fish the Jamesport area.

MORICHES BAY

Seatuck Cove Fishing Station reports that Saturday was the opening day and they had half of their 20 boats out with catches ranging from 5 to 60 flounders. The further east you went it seemed that the better the catches were. Ed Larson and George Peterson, both of New Rochelle, fished buoy 52. They used bloodworms with mussel chum and bagged 60 fish.

Romana Seifert of the **Silly Lily Fishing Station** reported that the flounder fishing is off to a good start with the area north of buoy 42 the hot spot. On Friday Dennis Klaus and John Gawronski took 46 flounder up to 1 1/4 pounds on bloodworms and mussel chum, which is essential. On Saturday nothing much happened, with boats taking from zero to 70 fish.

LIF staff member **Doc Muller** made his first flounder trip of the season in Sunday's wind at Harts Cove in Moriches Bay. Doc managed to take 1 flounder in one and a half hours that weighed between 3/4 and 1 1/2 pounds on the scale. He said that the flounders definitely prefer mussel baits to worm and lots of mussel chum in a chum pot is essential to a good catch.

CAPTREE

Captain Eddie Brinkat of the **Captain Eddie B** had his first charter of the year on Sunday but had to return to the dock early due to the fierce weather. Eddie says that it looks like a good season ahead and that he has weekdays and just a few weekends still open for the season and that a big number this year will be his afternoon fluke and weakfish trips.

The **Captain Richie** reported that the flounder fishing was better during the week than during the weekend in the Heckscher area. The fish are just sucking on the bait so you have to make the slow lift to be successful. A small piece of clam and worm combination is the best bait. The fish are very clean and good size. The weekend fishing suffered from heavy winds that churned up the bottom.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** reported that the flounder fishing was fair on Friday and Saturday with the average catch about 12 to 15 per man and hi-hook around 25. All in all, the

fishing has improved slightly, with the fish good size nice and meaty. Every day between 8 and 10 2 pound flounder are coming aboard. Best area is around Heckscher and you must use small baits. The fish are just sucking on the bait so you have to make the slow lift every once in awhile to take the bait.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the **Lady Ann** told us that they will start sailing this Saturday and Sunday at 7 A.M. for flounder. The **Lady Ann** will be running as an open boat for the **Speedy V** until the new boat arrives in May. They will only be sailing open on the days the Lady Ann is not chartered. They still are excepting charters.

OAKBEACH

The **Store** reports Saturday was slow-fair for flounder both off his pier and off the small dock north of **The Store**. This was all on bloodworms. Sunday, needless to say was horrible.

EAST ISLIP

Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle tells us that the East Islip beach, buoy 2 area has been producing good flounder catches, as has the Great River Dock. This was all on bloodworm for mixed size fish, all tides.

BABYLON

Walter at **Babylon Fishing Station** reports that on Saturday Joe Catrone of the Babylon Tuna Club bagged 35 flounder off Heckscher with bloodworms and a working chum pot. The local spots are just coming to life.

Mario at **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** had five boats out on Saturday, returning with 13, 7, 6 with 2 boats skunked. Best is off the old sea plane hanger and behind Grass Island on worms and mussel baits and corn chum.

Charlie at **Charlie's Fishing Station** tells us that plenty of flounder were brought in on Saturday with 20-30 flatties per man as an average, best fishing being right off Bergen Point using bloodworms and mussels for bait along with any kind of chum.

LINDENHURST

Captain Bob Fischer of the **Lazy Day** says he is sorry he didn't sail this past weekend, reason being a change over in boats. The **Lazy Day II** will sail at 8 A.M. daily along with Captain Ralph Michaels of the **Harry II** which will sail from **Salty Sam's Fishing Station**.

Bullet skipper Captain Jay Porter informs us that the new underwater sonar aboard the **Bullet** has an effective range of 4 miles underwater. He told us

that only the Navy Department has this type of equipment and it is used to find underwater mines and subs. Jay will be using this machine to help him find some new wrecks that have not been fished and to find the old ones easier. Keep your eyes on the **Bullet** ad in LIF for actual dates of the trips this season. The maiden voyage is still scheduled for early May, and Jay will be sailing several times weekly to the Hudson Canyon and to the eastern end of Long Island for cod and pollack.

Charles Bait and Tackle tells us that Saturday saw pretty decent flounder fishing at the Amityville Cut, Cowan's Bar between Copaque and Amityville, the State Channel at Frank & Dick's, off Heckscher and off the Babylon Pool. Worm and mussel baits work best as do clam also for fish averaging $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound. The biggest catch brought into Charles was a 1 pound 2 ounce flounder taken by 10 year old Billy Marvin.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs **Bait and Tackle** tells us that Saturday was fair flounder fishing at the Amityville Cut and the back at Gilgo. George says that Fort Neck Point is also starting, with the ebbing tide working best with worms and mussels for bait and any kind of chumming or stirring up the bottom a big help. George says to expect good catches and good size fish this coming weekend.

SEAFORD

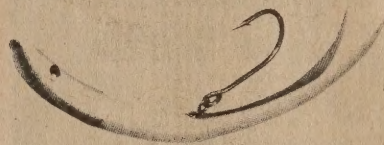
Marty at **Captain Eddie's Fishing Station** says that Saturday saw mixed sizes of flounder brought in, with plenty of keepers mostly taken east of Seaford Creek along the Massapequa shoreline. Bloodworms and mussel baits along with mussel chumming did the best job, any tide. On Sunday, three boats got out early and returned early with fair catches also.

Lon at **Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle**

reports that the fishing for flounder was good on Saturday in Massapequa Cove, fish averaging 1 pound. Zach's Bay was good as was Florence Beach, but Squaw Island seemed to be slow this past week. Bloodworms along with mussel chum are the ticket.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports that Saturday saw twenty of his boats out with very good flounder fishing for every boat. Hot spots were Whaleneck Point (sometimes known as Rowboat Alley), and the channel marker directly off the Texaco sign at the south end of Nick's dock. Fish were mixed sizes with very few throwbacks. LIF ad manager Stu Miller had the infamous G. Korn and son out on Saturday, with Stu nailing 19 good flounder and twenty flatties taken by the 2 Korns. These fish were all taken at the hot spots just mentioned, all on bloodworms and mussel chum.



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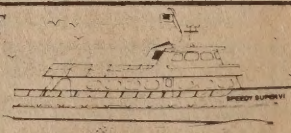
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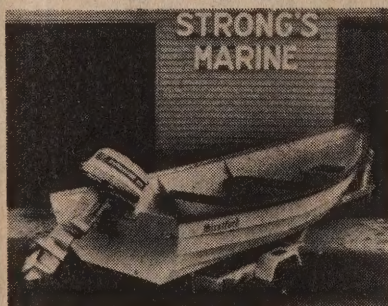
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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

Capt. Kessinger of the **Starstream II** continues to refurbish the boat in anticipation of the better weather ahead. **Miss Freeport** fished Squaw Island and the State Channel on Saturday. The flounder catch was from half dozen to 15 fish and had to be searched for. Sunday the Miss Freeport fished to the west near Baldwin. High winds and white caps brought them home early, even though there were fish to be had.

The **Blue Fin** starts its charter season on April 3 by taking out the Ramble Fishing Club of New Hyde Park. This 45 foot boat is licensed for 38 people and has a heated cabin.

Capt. John Grimley of the **Aloma** said they tried for cod on Saturday but the bergalls negated that action. They then went to the BA Buoy where the whiting action was good. On Sunday, the wind made it too rough to go to the BA Buoy again.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports a slow pick on Saturday with up to a dozen fish per boat. Local sharpshooter Frank Oshinsky had 40 flounder up to 1½ pounds fishing the Baldwin Bay area.

Roy at **Mako Marina** reports that Al Stern of the East Bay Anglers and crew bagged 125 flounder at Squaw Island on Saturday on bloodworms, all tides. Joe Long and Phil Kominski of Hudson Anglers got 75 flounder on Friday at Squaw Island. Paul Murray of the Hudson Anglers on the "Donna" took 18 codfish sailing southeast at the 100 foot mark, and at the 95 foot mark 4 cod were taken by Dom Castronova.

POINT LOOKOUT

Dave at **Ed's Fishing Station** said the boats are fishing Swift Creek, the flats and Reynolds Channel at buoys 16 and 19. High tides had held catches to about 30 flounder, said Dave. Worms with mussel chum has enticed the ½ to ¾ lb. and heavier flounder to bite. Bill Ophoff and sone, Bille, Jr. took a half pail of nice flounder from the flats.

ISLAND PARK

Good flounder fishing was had by the **Commodore** fares on Saturday. They fished Garret Lead and Swift Creek where the average catch was 12-15 flounder. High hook was 25 fish. The sizes are mixed but mostly all good. Worm, clams or mussels are all o.k. baits. Sunday saw good results also but the rough weather called an early return to the dock.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Huck of the **Helen H** said the jumbo whiting are jumping at the BA Buoy and the Ambrose Tower. The outlook for continued good whiting fishing looks good.

The **Eagle** has had good catches of whiting at the BA Buoy and Ambrose Tower. Th whiting are of good size with some as large as 3 lbs. According to Larry Krim just about everyone had a 5 gallon pail full of whiting.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Rod & Gun Shop** said the flounder are still biting well at the North Channel bridge. Worms and mussels are still taking flounder that average about ¾ lb. John says there are still herring there and by wrapping aluminum foil around some flounder hooks, they can be taken by casting.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Art Whites Bait Shop said there was very little productive boat action over the weekend. Art said the best action was at Sterling Creek. Two men who were casting from the shore took 57 flounders. They used sandworms and mussels as bait and took some flounders that went to 1½ pounds.

SOUTHOLD

At **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** the fishing action was not in the bonanza class but it was encouraging. All the fish being taken are clean which indicates that they are out of the mud and active. Goose Creek and Ben's Point were two of the better spots. A woman said she fished from the beach at Ben's Point where she took 6 flounders one of which she said weighed 2 pounds.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal at **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** reports three boats had 18, 22, and 25 flounder. The fish averaged from ½ to ¾ of a pound with some going as high as 1½ pounds. The larger flounder were taken at the North Race while Jamesport



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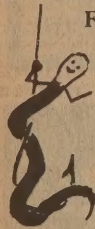
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buoy #8 and the creeks in Cutchogue Bay held smaller ones. These flounder were taken on worms with mussels as chum and bait.

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Bowman's Sporting Goods reports most dock fishermen had a couple of flounders. The real run is not on as yet but the boat fishermen did better than fair. Mussels as chum and bait along with worms did a good job on these ¾ to 1 pound fish. A few went to 2 pounds. Crab Meadow has seen a change in feeding action of the striped bass. The Tri-Fin Whiptail is still the most productive lure but the bass are now hitting Rebels. The action is up and down with schoolies but no shorts on the bad days and 10-12 lb. fish on the good days.

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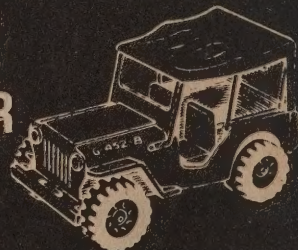


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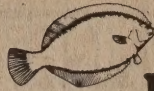
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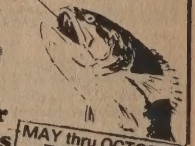
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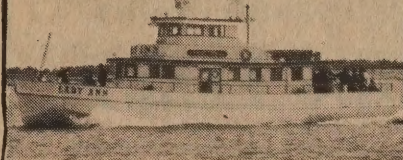
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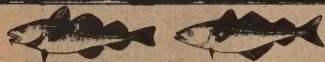
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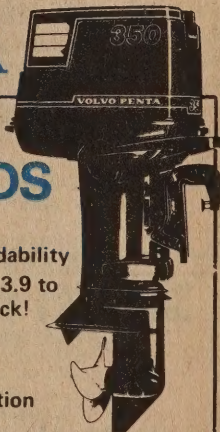
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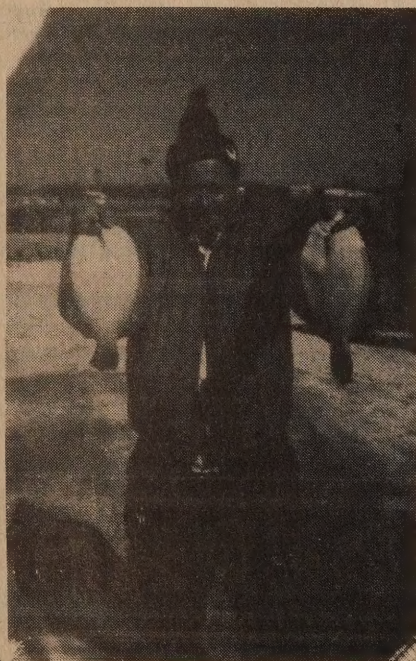
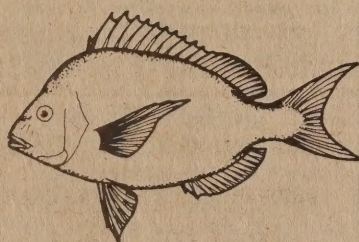
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Irving Friedman and Joe Dee of Manhattan caught these flounder (1-1 1/4 lb.s) on bloodworms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt.

HUNTINGTON

George at Four Winds Bait and Tackle said there are nice big flounders in the harbors at Lloyd Harbor, Centerport and Northport. The average is 3/4 to 1 1/2 pounds with lots of smaller fish mixed in and an occasional 2 pounder. These fish are just starting to come alive and need plenty of chum to keep them coming. The striped bass were blown up on the beach at Crab Meadow on Wednesday and Thursday. Most of the fish were between 3 and 6 pounds and some had upwards of 6 fish. In that wind the fish were taking mostly bucktails. What else could you throw?

Ronnies Bait and Tackle reports flounder fishing in Huntington Harbor, at Duck Island, Lloyd Harbor and local bays has been steadily improving. Sandworms and bank mussels are the ticket, for fish running up to 1 1/2 pounds. Bass in the hot water have been taking large sandworms and bloodworms, with artificial choice running to small Rebels and sinking white bucktails. Several bass to 18 pounds have been taken on incoming at Crab Meadow. Ronnie asks that everyone help keep the beaches clean this season by not littering.

GLEN COVE

Good flounder fishing broke loose over the weekend as reported by John at Glen Cove Bait and Tackle. Most of the local Glen Cove Beaches with Prybil Beach and the Glen Cove breakwater being the most popular spots. The fish are mostly of decent size being in the 3/4 to 1 pound range. The fish are caught mostly on worms.

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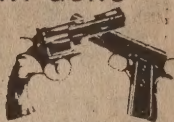
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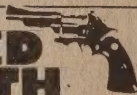
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Subscribers will also receive *The Fisherman's Package* by mail in the near future. This is a 5½ by 8½ inch booklet that will contain the tide tables for the year, discount blanks for classified advertisements, blanks for submitting a photo of you and your catch for publication in *The Fisherman*, and L.I.F. Funny Money. Funny Money is used by subscribers to obtain discounts when ordering books and other fishing merchandise by mail order.

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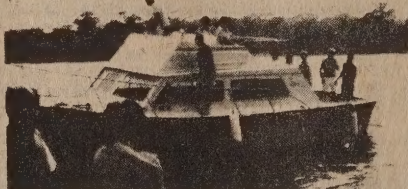
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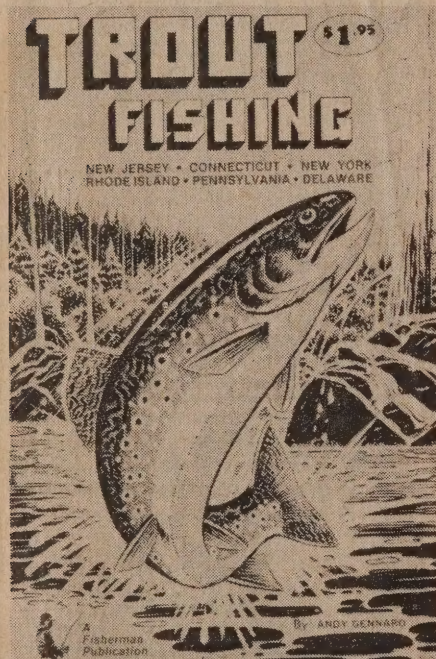
(Continued from page 11.)

Follow up with several coats of rush-preventive primer (Rustoleum or Derusto) and finish coat. Vinyl and epoxy base paints work best on steel craft because they adhere better. If the surface is clean and free of rust-scale, then use a paint of similar base to the old layer. If you must go clear down to the bare metal before painting, apply an etch, then the primer and finish coat. Copper based anti-fouling paints set up a similar corrosive action on steel hulls as they do on aluminum and should be avoided unless you use a recommended primer which acts as a barrier between the steel hull and the anti-fouling paint. Avoid the problem altogether by using one of the new aforementioned TBTO or TBTF paints.



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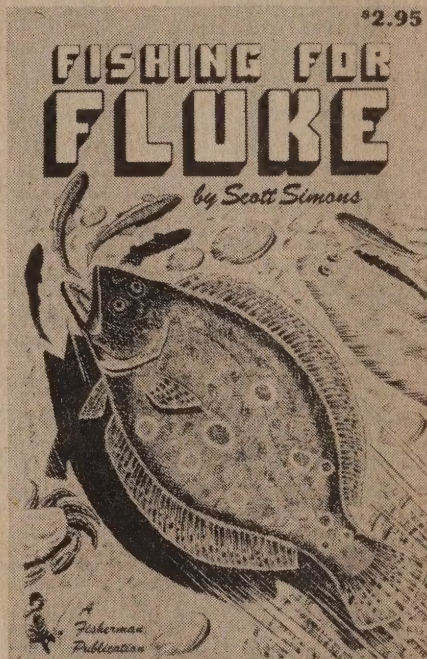
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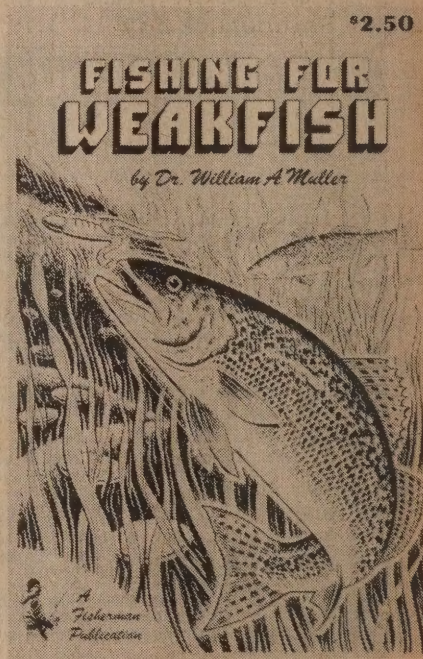
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TIDE TABLES

ON →	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE- PORT	
DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM

3/25	THURSDAY	3:42	4:17	5:34	6:07	8:01	8:31	7:13	7:44
3/26	FRIDAY	4:42	5:12	6:30	6:56	8:55	9:19	8:11	8:37
3/27	SATURDAY	5:31	5:55	7:15	7:35	9:42	10:04	9:00	9:20
3/28	SUNDAY	6:15	6:37	7:57	8:11	10:24	10:42	9:43	10:01
3/29	MONDAY	6:55	7:12	8:30	8:45	11:03	11:16	10:23	10:39
3/30	TUESDAY	7:31	7:46	9:07	9:20	11:33	11:39	11:02	11:16
3/31	WEDNESDAY	8:06	8:19	9:41	9:55	11:53	11:49	11:39	11:51
4/1	THURSDAY	8:41	8:52	10:17	10:30	:	12:05	:	12:15

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	-0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	-0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	-0 38
Coast Guard Sta.	-0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	-0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	-0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	-0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	-0 12

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	-0 14
Fort Pond Bay	-0 29
Montauk Inlet	-0 25
Montauk Point	-1 13

BRIDGEPORT

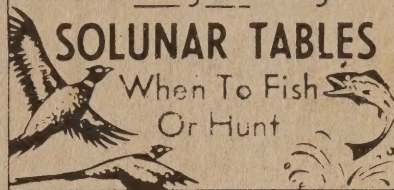
Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	-0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	-0 08
Herod Point	-0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	-0 20
Truman Beach	-0 42

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	-0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	-0 01
Hempstead Harbor	-0 11
City Island	-0 03
Rye Beach	-0 28

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet -0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". -0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6 1/2 hours to this figure.

The Original Knight



The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however. The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M.		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
3/25	12:25	7:00	12:55	7:25
3/26	1:10	7:45	1:40	8:05
3/27	1:55	8:25	2:20	8:50
3/28	2:35	9:05	3:00	9:25
3/29	3:15	9:40	3:45	10:05
3/30	3:50	10:20	4:20	10:40
3/31	4:30	11:05	4:55	11:30
4/1	5:15	11:50	5:45	:

PHASES OF THE MOON

3-30	3-9	3-16	3-22
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

3/1	6:36	5:50
3/6	6:27	5:56
3/11	6:19	6:02
3/16	6:10	6:08
3/21	6:02	6:13
3/26	5:53	6:19
3/31	5:45	6:25

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